

DUDLEY CHRONICLE



Thursday, November 1, 2012

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College is putting forward new plans

DUDLEY College has lodged fresh plans for a new teaching centre specialising in construction which will be built at its main campus.

Outdated buildings at the Broadway campus will be demolished to make way for the development, which forms part of the college's £55million learning quarter.

The original proposals were for a combined construction and engineering centre but the college is now looking to build Dudley Advance in Priory Road to cater for engineering students.

Separate plans for this scheme have already been submitted to Dudley College.

College bosses have now lodged an application to amend the outline planning permission which was granted for the combined centre in 2010.

A planning statement, submitted with the application, says the new centre will cater for students from the college's Mons Hill campus, which is due to be sold off and has been earmarked for housing. The floor space of the new buildings, which form the centre, has been reduced from the original.

If the revised plans are approved, a detailed planning application will be submitted at a later date.

Merry Hill to open longer

VISITORS to Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre will be able to shop for longer in the run up to Christmas, bosses say.

The shopping centre has extended its evening and weekend opening hours for the festive period.

From Monday, it will be open until 10pm on weekdays and until 8pm on Saturdays. The centre will be open until 5pm on Sundays.

Merry Hill marketing manager, Kelly Reed, said: "They hoped the move would give customers more convenience."

CUTS AT COUNCIL TO HIT EVERYONE

by Heather Large

PARKING charges will rise, youth services will be slashed and some home care for the elderly could be withdrawn as part of a multi-million pound cost-cutting budget proposed by Dudley Council.

Council leader Councillor Dave Sparks said the authority had been forced to make savings and was determined to minimise the impact on services. "Unfortunately we are in a financial straitjacket and we are having to do things that we really don't want to do. The government's policy on local government expenditure is forcing councils to make cuts," he said.

Parks and streets will not be maintained as often and garden waste will go uncollected for five months of the year, under the plans to save almost £22 million over three years.

It comes on top of more than £30m which has been slashed since 2010, and which has seen 487 voluntary redundancies and 74 compulsory redundancies at the authority.

Further jobs are at risk with a voluntary redundancy programme expected to be approved next week in a bid to keep the number of compulsory redundancies to a minimum.

The council has announced a three-year savings programme with services for children and elderly among those affected.

Landfill

The proposals include introducing wheelie bins for household waste to slash landfill costs and shortening the collection period for garden waste.

Councillor Sparks said the authority had been forced to make savings and was determined to minimise the impact on services.

The figures highlight savings of £10.7m to be made next year, a further £4.8m the following year and £6.3m in 2015/16.

The proposals to reduce budgets would see parking charges in the borough increase by 20 per cent in 2013 and they by a further 10 per cent in 2014.

There are also plans to slash the number of long-term care beds for the elderly while home care services could also be cut back.

"Youth services for 13-19 year olds could be 'significantly' reduced and revamped.

Car demolishes garden wall



The car that crashed into a garden wall in Netherton. Picture West Midlands Ambulance Service

A CAR overturned and smashed into a garden wall sending bricks hurtling into glass patio doors and parked cars.

The driver, a 22-year-old man, suffered a head injury but was able to escape the wreckage of his car following the crash along Cradley Road, in Netherton, on Sunday at 5.40pm.

He was taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital for further treatment. He also suffered cuts and bruises.

Stunned residents have been picking up the pieces following the smash, which left two vehicles parked on a driveway outside one house badly damaged. The porch doors

of another property were smashed and debris scattered all over the drive. The wall runs along the front of two properties along the road and was reduced to rubble by the impact.

Resident Elsie Carter, 91, said she had heard a loud crash and came out to a scene of devastation. The glass in her front patio doors was smashed by flying bricks.

"I was sitting down and just heard this loud noise and wondered what it was," she said. West Midlands Ambulance spokesman John Hawker said: "The man was extremely fortunate not to have suffered more serious injuries."

Grenade found in wardrobe clearout

DOZENS of people were evacuated from their homes when a Second World War grenade was found by a widow sorting out some of her husband's belongings.

Bomb disposal teams arrived to assist in the evacuation of up to 12 homes, in Coppice Lane, Quarry Bank, after the discovery on Monday.

Widow Maureen Chance found the explosive inside a box while she was clearing out a wardrobe of her late husband Leslie's possessions at her home in Birch Avenue.

Mrs Chance, aged 70, carried the grenade in her shopping trolley to show relatives living in nearby Coppice Lane.

She said: "I was a bit shocked by it all as I'm not sure how Leslie had it in the first place - plus it had been there for a while as he died 12 years ago."

Her niece Rachael Guest said: "I thought 'What is that?' as it was quite heavy and had gone a bit rusty but it still had the pin in it."

Police officers arrived at the scene at around 7pm within minutes of them phoning an advice line.

Miss Guest, aged 38, placed the grenade in the back garden of the house on the instruction of explosives experts. Police evacuated homes within around 330ft perimeter as a precaution.

By-election after death

A BY-ELECTION is to be held to fill a council seat left vacant by the death of a long-serving Stourbridge councillor.

Residents will go to the polls to decide who will take on Councillor Malcolm Knowles' seat in the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town ward.

Dudley Council confirmed the by-election would take place but said no timescale had been set at the moment.

Officers for the authority said a notice of vacancy would be published shortly.

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Scrapyard blaze hits train services

A BLAZE ripped through a scrap metal yard in Coseley, causing disruption to mainline train services as plumes of smoke drifted across railway tracks.

Up to 200 tons of scrap metal was alight at Geo Johnson (Metals) scrap merchants, in Havaeare Lane, near the railway station on Monday. Trains were forced to divert from Coseley as smoke billowed across the tracks. In total, two train serv-

ices between Wolverhampton and Birmingham were cancelled and five diverted to other stations.

Residents saw flames shooting 20ft into the night sky as the pile of scrap and car parts caught alight at around 8.40pm.

Police closed Havaeare Road between Darkhouse Lane and Anchor Road close to a railway bridge, while dozens of firefighters from Bilston, Dudley and Tipton

stations fought the fierce flames.

Once it was under control, workers from the company helped crews by using machinery to move the pile of metal so firefighters could tackle all parts of the blaze.

Water was pumped from the nearby Coseley Canal, with hoses dragged across Havaeare Road blocking traffic. Watch Commander Ade Cope, of Bilston Fire Station, said crews were faced with a very severe

blaze. "It was a very well developed fire when we arrived with smoke and flames going very high into the sky," he said. "We were able to stop the fire escalating."

Firefighters remained at the scene for eight hours. The cause of the blaze is still being investigated.

Train operator London Midland asked travellers to use rail tickets on the Midland Metro or buses between Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

History buff and ex-head dies, 81

A FORMER headteacher, author and historian renowned for his knowledge of the region's past has died, aged 81.

Tributes have been paid to Trevor Genge, of Brownswall Road, Sedgley, who died peacefully on October 5. His heartbroken family paid tribute to a kind, intelligent and charming man who would be greatly missed.

He leaves behind children Jenny, David and Alison and four grandchildren. His wife, Margaret, died two years ago.

Mr Genge was born in Lanesfield and started his career at engineering firm John Thompson before training to be a teacher.

He started work at Alder Coppice Primary School in Sedgley in the late-1960s before moving to the Bramford School where he became headteacher.

He also worked at Lanesfield Primary School, again as head, before his retirement in the late-1990s.

He was a dedicated historian and in 1984 was a founding member of Sedgley Local History Society.

Mr Genge served as chairman of the group for more than two decades.

£3m canal exhibition centre plans unveiled

A £3 MILLION education, exhibition and heritage centre could be built by Dudley Canal Trust under new plans. The two-storey building, called The Portal, which would be sited at the canal tunnel entrance at Todds End, would outline the Black Country's industrial past.



David Treviss-Smith

200 tons of waste gone

MORE than 200 tons of waste has been shifted from a towering rubbish mound overlooking homes in Brierley Hill in one week, a court heard.

The Environment Agency is locked in a legal battle with bosses at Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd over the pile, which once topped 40ft.

A survey was carried out at the site last week to establish the height of the pile.

The High Court, sitting in Birmingham, heard the waste ranged from 20ft to 25ft high in place.

Judge Stephen Oliver-Jones QC extended an injunction made on October 19 restricting waste processing on the site.

The defendants were also ordered to clear the waste at the front part of the site to ground level by December 7.

This will stay in place until a three-day hearing on December 10.

The top floor of the centre would provide access from the boat trips car park off Birmingham New Road.

A lift would be installed to enable people to get to and from the towpath and visitor embarkation wharf.

A swing bridge would also be installed to enable visitors from the Black Country Living Museum on the opposite side of the canal to access the ticket office, trip boats and heritage and learning centre.

A planning application for the scheme has been lodged with Dudley Council and a bid for Heritage Lottery cash to help fund the project has also been submitted.

Project manager David Treviss-Smith said if everything goes according to plan, work will get under way on the building in October next year and it will be ready to welcome visitors in summer 2014.

"This is something that Dudley Canal Trust has been working on, with partners, for a quite a number of years," he said.

"The building will be a great addition for Dudley Canal Trust."

"This is something that Dudley Canal Trust has been working on, with partners, for a quite a number of years. The building will be a great addition for Dudley Canal Trust."

Tens of thousands of people visit the network of canal tunnels every year. The canal trust is inviting members and supporters to make donations to the scheme. For information visit www.dudleycanaltrust.org.uk

Mike's jungle journey planned



Councillor Melvyn Mottram, Mayor of Dudley, with Mike Crannage and Charlie, a macaw SUPER-fit Dudley mayoral attendant Mike Crannage, who has raised thousands for charity, is planning his next daring adventure in a South American jungle.

The 53-year-old plans a gruelling 150-mile coast-to-coast race through the jungles of Costa Rica. Last year he ran 150 miles through the Sahara Desert, braving sweltering temperatures and towering sand dunes.

For his latest challenge, he will trek, run, climb, abseil and swim the equivalent of almost six marathons through hazardous terrain. The former army man will have to complete the distance, from Quepos on the Pacific Coast to Tortuguero on the Caribbean Sea, in just 10 days. The money he raises from the challenge, on February 2 next year, will be donated to the Mayor of Dudley's charities - Diabetes UK; Stourbridge, Dudley and District Support Group and the Dudley Stroke Association. Visit www.mikecrannage.com.

Church firs facing chop

SEVENTEEN fir trees will be chopped down at a Dudley church under new plans to allow more light to reach a garden of rest.

An application has been made for permission to fell the trees at Holy Trinity Church in Amblecote.

Three letters of objection have been received by Dudley Council, including one from a former vicar at the church, but there have also been three letters supporting the proposals.

They have been recommended for approval by the authority's development control committee.

Award for band

A BAND from Dudley has won an award for their work on the club scene.

Covers group Flying Colours won Band of the Year at the Birmingham Entertainments Secretaries Council awards. The band started 20 years ago at the old Sir Gilbert Cloughton School, Bowers Green Road."

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Targeting thefts of mobiles

THIEVES are stealing around 500 expensive iPhone and BlackBerry mobiles every month in the West Midlands, police have revealed.

Pickpockets are cruising busy pubs, clubs and shopping centres, looking for opportunities to snatch devices, officers say.

Police have now launched a crackdown ahead of the festive season when more phones are purchased and venues become busier.

Figures from West Midlands Police show an average of almost 500 iPhones and BlackBerry devices are stolen every month.

Officers say this amounts to around 75 per cent of all phone thefts reported.

Staffordshire Police said 1,454 mobile phones were stolen between April and September – an average of 242 per month. This included 310 iPhones and 277 BlackBerry phones.

West Midlands officers have now launched a new crackdown with an awareness campaign ahead of the Christmas period.

They say the operation is timely in light of the recent launch of the new Apple iPhone 5, worth at least £529.

£1m work is completed

A £1 million scheme to replace outdated facilities at a Dudley crematorium has been completed.

New cremators have been installed at Gornal Wood Cemetery and Crematorium, in Chase Road, during the six-month improvement to bring the site into line with emission regulations.

Two cremators have been installed, one of which will also accommodate larger coffins.

The site's chapel has also been decorated. The crematorium will return to full opening from November 5, after a restricted service.

Fungi fun time

THERE'S a chance to discover what lies in the underground at a Dudley nature reserve this weekend.

A fungi foray will take place on November 3 at The Leasowes, Halesowen, led by expert Nick Williams.

The walk will be starting at 2.30pm and finishes at 4.30pm.

Places need to be booked on 01384 814642.

Camra round table to fight for King Arthur



The King Arthur pub in Dudley

REAL ale campaigners are opposing an application to flatten the King Arthur pub in Dudley.

The move has shocked locals, with some saying the building should be preserved.

Anthony Hitchmough, pub preservation officer for Dudley and South Staffordshire Campaign for Real Ale (Camra), has written to Dudley Council saying he believes the pub, on the corner of Priory Road and Birmingham New Road, should not be demolished.

It was built in the 1920s and was a roadhouse, attracting mostly customers

with cars from further afield. The site has planning permission for a 70-bedroom hotel extension.

In his letter, Mr Hitchmough says: "Why demolish it, when planning permission to extend and provide accommodation has been granted?

"Dudley is short of accommodation."

A notice has been put up at the site informing people that an application to demolish the pub has been submitted.

It is not yet known whether another application for the site has been found.

Ward councillor Alan Finch has already spoken of his shock at hearing the

news, saying it was "a shame". Owner Amrinder Sandhu was granted planning permission for the £3.5 million hotel project in April 2010.

Work had been expected to start that summer. Mr Sandhu said at the time he needed to develop the site to supplement pub income and to prevent the building from falling into disrepair.

But in September 2010, the pub was put up for sale with estate agent Christie & Co. It was later withdrawn from their books.

Mr Sandhu was unavailable for comment.

Lifetime pet ban on brother and sister as dog destroyed

A BROTHER and sister who kept 16 pets in squalid conditions have been told they cannot keep animals again. RSPCA officers found Lawrence and Shirley Anne Griffin's dog Rocky lying on the living room floor covered in its own mess.

They were called after the pair were evicted from their previous address in Chestnut Drive, Dudley, on January 11.

by Lee Watton

Mrs Gaynor Sutton, prosecuting on behalf of the RSPCA, said: "The dog was lying in the living room just behind the door. It was on its left side and was at first sight unrecognisable.

"The officer checked the dog's stomach and could count the bones and ribs.

"The house was squalid and filthy. The carpet was covered in general filth.

"A police officer described the smell as the worst he had ever smelled."

Mrs Sutton said vets found the dog was dehydrated and had arthritis.

Mr Tim Gascoyne, defending, said: "They have taken responsibility for what they have done and pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity. They did not know about the tumour and say the dog was given food. They did not know why the animal was losing weight."

Miss Griffin tried to clean the dog but said it had growled at her.

Debate on marriages

A Midland MP is asking for his constituents' views on same sex marriage as he launches his first online survey.

Peter Luff, MP for Mid-Worcestershire, which covers areas near Kidderminster, said he was inspired to address the issue after several contacts with people.

He said: "I have had passionate emails and letters on both sides of the argument, with a significant majority against introducing same sex marriage. The survey can be found at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/PY8VZRV



From, left, Kellie Magee, Stuart James, Sammie Lou, top, Theresa Smith and Helen Deakin aka Helesa, Bimal Jangra, Kay Davis, John Davis, Paul David

Talented locals in night of awards

LOCAL entertainers took to the stage at an awards ceremony celebrating the club scene's top talent.

Six acts won awards from the Mid-Counties Entertainment Council at Coseley Working Mens Club and belted out hits spanning five decades.

All had been voted for by council members following shows over the last year.

The youngest winner was 16-year-old Kellie Magee, who was named best newcomer. The Halesowen College student lives in Coseley.

Stuart James, 35, won best male vocalist just months after returning home to Oldbury from performing in Memphis and Las Vegas.

Sisters Helen Deakin, 29, and Theresa Smith, 39, of Tipton, won best duo.

Best female vocalist was Sammie Lou Cooper.

The 32-year-old, of Brierley Hill, spent five years as a singer in Benidorm and worked at Joe Longthorne's bar in Blackpool.

Winners of best trio for the third year running were Beyond Words, made up of married couple Kay and John Davies and Bimal Jangra. Paul David, 39, won best all-round entertainer.

NEWS

in brief

MP helping with research on EU

A WEST Midland MP is helping Conservative Party research into how UK financial services are affected by EU regulations.

As a member of the Fresh Start Project, Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier will contribute to the "Manifesto for Change".

The document will set out recommendations for reassessing the UK's relationship with the EU, potentially forming part of the Tory party's next election manifesto.

Glassworks' fate is in the balance

A FORMER 18th century glassworks factory in Dudley could be saved from demolition under plans to carry out a new assessment of its architectural value.

An application to knock down the buildings, which were part of the former Platts Glassworks in Platts Road, Stourbridge, has been lodged with Dudley Council.

But council planners want to put a block on the plans to allow more time to investigate whether the site is of "historic significance".

Writer who has a touch of glass

A WRITER, glass expert and broadcaster from Stourbridge will showcase his latest book at an event expected to attract thousands of collectors.

The National Glass Fair will be at the National Motorcycle Museum, Coventry Road, Solihull, between 10.30am and 4pm on November 11. Graham Fisher will be selling copies of the 2012 Portland Vase Project.

Village hall holding Christmas bazaar

A CHRISTMAS bazaar will be held at Stourton Village Hall, off Bridgnorth Road, on December 1. Doors will open to the public at 9.30am.

Traders still have time to take up a table at the event. They are asked to call 01884 872073 or 07801 929034. Tables are £10 in advance.

Nearly new sale

NCT's Stourbridge and Halesowen branch is organising a nearly new sale and baby fair on November 24 at Thorns Leisure Centre, Stockwell Avenue, Quarry Bank, from 11am to 1pm. Visit www.nct.org.uk/branches/stourbridge-halesowen.

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NEWS

**THE BEST
OF PETER
RHODES**

AS THE US elections approach, the master of one-liners Milton Jones explained on Arthur Smith's Balham Bash (Radio 4) how close his own father came to being President of the United States. He was an undertaker on an army base. A barrack embalmer.

A READER writes: "I have a door stopper. Could it be Wedgewood?"

MORE strangely-modern lines from Downton Abbey (ITV) where Ethel the maid says: "I'll give it a go" and Matthew declares: "I've been on a steep learning curve." Coming next: on being released from prison, Mr Bates says: "Freedom, like it's wicked, innit?"

THE organiser of a bonfire party next to a pile-up on the M5 had been charged with seven counts of manslaughter. I wonder how many November 5 bonfire organisers have resigned since this story broke a few days ago.

OUR recent correspondence about people's attitudes towards folk in wheelchairs reminded me of Ron Burns of Tipton. He was an amputee diabetic with heart trouble yet he was one of the funniest natural comedians I've ever met. He died in 1999 and in the final months of his life he was forced to use a wheelchair.

He noted that when he sat in it he was just 4ft 2ins tall, which inspired his bitter little poem about meeting someone he knew perfectly well but who failed to recognise him.

It began: "We met this man in Bilston, Well, my daughter did. He didn't recognise me; They never do when you're four feet two." I dare say plenty of people in wheelchairs know the feeling.

THIS may save you a trip to the police station. A reader who was sent a copy of the Chinese-inheritance scam, featured in this column recently, took it to his local nick where the officers referred him to the website Actionfraud.police.uk.

He tells me that after filling out the Actionfraud report form, he was advised to contact his local police station, which is precisely what he had done.

I WON'T be voting in the November 15 elections for police commissioners because I don't see how scrapping a committee and replacing it with one person improves democracy. Seems I'm in good company.

The former Metropolitan Police chief Lord Ian Blair declares: "I've never said this before but I actually hope people don't vote because that is the only way we are going to stop this." Could these be the first elections in Britain when it is our civic duty not to vote?

ONE reader speaks for many about police commissioners: "Has it not occurred to anyone that one person is very much easier to corrupt than a body of people?"

MY PARENTS spent their honeymoon in the Yorkshire Dales, 10 miles from their home. My wife and I spent our honeymoon in Glastonbury, 100 miles from our home. My daughter and her husband are currently on honeymoon in a rain forest in Mexico. Makes you wonder where their children will honeymoon. Mars?

AND now, a sneak preview from the television schedules for this time next year, October 2013: Newsnight asks whether significant facts were overlooked in Panorama's investigation into the Guardian investigation into the Daily Mail investigation into the Blue Peter investigation into the One Show investigation into the Panorama investigation into the Newsnight investigation of the Jimmy Savile scandal. In-depth analysis by Zippy from Rainbow.

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Ex-teacher downloaded child porn

A FORMER teacher has admitted having almost 100,000 indecent images of children stored on computer memory sticks.

Matthew Bullas, formerly a PE teacher at Dudley's Castle High School, downloaded photographs and videos from the internet during a "period of depression".

The 32-year-old, of Hamilton Drive, Stourbridge, was

arrested at his previous address in Halesowen on November 16 and computer equipment was seized.

A total of 98,972 images were found by officers spread across five memory sticks. Bullas, who was sacked from the school, was sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

He was given a three-year community order with a

requirement to attend the Internet Offenders Treatment Programme and given supervision. Bullas was also placed under a Sex Offender Prevention Order for 10 years and on the Sex Offenders Register for five years.

None of the images featured children at the school where he worked. Mr. Danny Smith, defending, said his client was of

previous good character. "He had suffered a breakdown in his life which had vortexed into debt and depression," he said. "He had suffered the loss of a relationship and his grandparents and could not deal with this emotional burden."

Judge Michael Dudley said: "These offences are serious. For these images to be made a real child has been abused."

**Free parking on cards
in run up to Christmas**

FORTY car parks in Dudley borough will be offering free parking in the run up to Christmas in an effort to attract more shoppers to the High Street. Charges will be suspended on selected evenings and Saturdays in December.

Glowing report on five clubs

FIVE Dudley borough clubs for children with disabilities have received a glowing report after an inspection by Ofsted.

The clubs, run by Dudley Council's youth service, are at Greenhill Youth Centre, Russells Hall Neighbourhood Centre, Lower Gornal Youth Centre, the Source, Wordsley and Valley Road Youth Centre, Lye.

The clubs are for young people with learning disabilities and include partnership support from Kids Orchard, Autistic Parent Support Group and Autism Outreach.

Successful grant applications have enabled four of the centres to add sensory rooms, new equipment and extend the holiday activity programmes.

Oifsted inspectors visited the centres in July to observe activities and to interview staff, young people and their parents and carers. The service was praised for its partnership work with parents and carers, special schools and voluntary organisations.

The report highlighted the fact "a number of disabled young people have been supported to take on volunteer and leadership roles within the centres, improving their self-confidence."

Dudley, Cannock and Wyre Forest Councils have pledged to offer free festive parking while Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell Councils are considering their options.

There will be free Saturday car parking on 40 car parks across Dudley that would normally charge on December 10, 17 and 24.

Charges will also be suspended on one evening to coincide with late night shopping and the Christmas lights switch on in Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Brierley Hill.

Fees in Dudley usually range from 40p for an hour to over £2.50 for over three hours, while in Cannock they range from 90p an hour up to £11.50 for six hours depending on the location.

Goodwill

Dudley transport boss Councillor Judy Foster said: "The suspension of car park charges is seen as a goodwill gesture on behalf of the council and an added incentive for shoppers to visit the borough on the run up to Christmas."

It could end up costing Dudley Council £20,000 in lost revenue from parking charges but extra takings expected during the festive season could bring the shortfall down to around £10,000.

Cannock Chase Council will offer free parking on all of its car parks on December 15 and 22.

Free car parking will also be available in Wyre Forest before Christmas and over the New Year on council-run car parks after 4pm.

Time for free tickets, oh yes it is

Panto star Nigel Ellacott visits Dudley Castle and Zoo which is sponsoring the dress rehearsal of Jack and the Beanstalk at The Grand, Wolverhampton

MORE than 1,000 free tickets are being given away for the dress rehearsal of this year's pantomime at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre, Jack and the Beanstalk.

Dudley Zoo is on the lookout for worthy charities and community organisations that would like to attend on December 7.

The family favourite will feature Loose

Women presenter Sherrie Hewson, veteran entertainer Keith Harris, plus the lovable Orville, with Nigel Ellacott joining the line-up as the distinctive dame. Dudley Zoo is

sponsoring the dress rehearsal and wants groups interested in attending to get in touch. Call 01384 215313 or email julia.marketing@dudleyzoo.org.uk.

Libraries service opinions wanted

PEOPLE can have their say about Dudley Council's library service this month.

The service will be carrying out an adult user survey from November 12 to 18.

People visiting any library in the borough during this time will be asked to complete the survey and give their opinion on topics such as computer facilities, book stock, information provision, the look of the libraries and customer care.

The completed surveys will be sent to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the results will be out next year. The results will be used to help assess and further improve services.

Since the last adult survey in 2009 Dudley libraries have continued to make improvements in areas such as extending opening hours to seven days, installing new IT and wi-fi facilities, completing refurbishments, improving stocks, creating easy customer access and providing self-service facilities.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "In recent years our libraries have been modernised to reflect the needs of our customers."

Information on donating

VISITORS to Dudley libraries can now get information on how to sign up to the Organ Donor Register and give blood. Information points have been set up at all libraries so people can get involved.

This year, Dudley Council became one of just two local authorities to sign up to a partnership with NHS Blood and Transplant, which aims to increase the organ and blood donation rates among staff and borough residents.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "Libraries are extremely versatile in the information and services they provide."

Stolen car chase

A STOLEN car overturned after crashing following a police chase.

The Vauxhall Tigra halted in Birmingham Street, Stourbridge, after being followed by officers on October 25 after being stolen, in Wood Street, Kidderminster. The driver, aged 48, was arrested and bailed.

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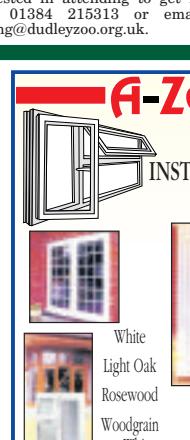
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Hundreds pay their respects

HUNDREDS turned out to pay their final respects to a long-serving councillor and former mayor of Dudley who died earlier this month aged 79.

A service of thanksgiving and celebration for the life of Councillor Malcolm Knowles was held at St Thomas's Church, in Stourbridge. It followed an earlier private cremation service.

Residents, friends, civic dignitaries and Dudley Council workers filled the church in Market Street, last week to honour Councilor Knowles.

Among those gathered were Dudley's present mayor Councillor Mervyn Mottram and councillors from all parties on the authority.

Classic cars, one of the father-of-three's passions, were parked up along the street by friends before the service as a tribute.

The service was led by Councillor Knowles' friend and fellow councillor Liz Walker who is a minister in the Diocese of Worcester.

It was Councillor Knowles' personal request she conduct the service.

The gathering stood to sing Jerusalem as his family entered the church before councillor Walker gave an introduction.

Tax benefits will change

RESIDENTS on council tax benefits in Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley may have to dip into their own pockets to pay 10 per cent of it themselves from next year.

Wyre Forest Council decided to recommend that the district overview and scrutiny committee approves a package which would include the cut in support for people of working age who are eligible for council tax benefit.

But the council would set up a "hardship fund" to help out those least able to pay a proportion of their council taxes. The decision follows the Government slashing 10 per cent off grants to local authorities to cover council tax benefits.

Talking history

BELBROUGHTON History Society is hosting a talk, by David Clark, former Mayor of Worcester, on November 21.

The event will start at 8pm at Belbroughton Church Hall.

The admission charge for the evening will be £2.50.

Borough volunteers honoured with awards

UNSUNG heroes who volunteer their time to help others and make a positive difference to their community have been honoured at an annual awards ceremony.

Individuals and groups were recognised for their dedication to good causes when the Dudley Volunteer Awards event was held at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

And it came as shock to the recipients who had no idea they would be getting an award – and in some cases thought they were going along to see others honoured.

The awards are staged by Dudley CVS and among the winners were Jasper and Marva

Nisbett, of Lawnswood Road, Lower Gornal, who have helped others in the community for more than 30 years. They received the Community Action Award.

Mrs Nisbett, aged 73, cooks and delivers meals and also makes hospital visits to the sick and elderly. The former district midwife also collects and delivers food for the Black Country Food Bank.

Mr Nisbett, 72, takes older people shopping or to doctors appointments and helps with other errands. Mrs Nisbett, who has undergone a serious heart operation in the past, said: "We were really surprised to

receive the award. We had absolutely no idea. We both get enormous satisfaction from helping people in the community."

Sandra Emery, 57, from Brierley Hill, received the Health and Well-Being Award. Despite having multiple sclerosis, the mother-of-two works to improve services for disabled people and supports the Wolverhampton MS therapy centre. "I love volunteering. It gives me a purpose. I am very proud to have received the award," she said.

Trevor Conway, of Coseley, received the Environmental Achievement Award. He supports the warden service at Wrens Nest Nature Reserve four days every week. He assists in wildlife recording.

The Safe and Sound Award was presented to the Recovery In Progress Team in Lye. It helps drug addicts turn their lives around. The volunteers are people who have successfully battled addiction themselves.

The Children and Families accolade was presented to the Sycamore Adventure Volunteers group on the Oak Park Farm estate, Dudley. Bob Hickman, 60, of Walmley Close, Halesowen, was named this year's Sporting Champion for his work with Halas Hawks Junior Football Club.

Traders relieved as roads reopen after major works

TWO roads in the Black Country hit by six months of repair works have fully reopened – bringing relief to traders who say they have lost thousands of pounds.

But temporary traffic lights along streets on the border of Halesowen and Rowley Regis will remain in place for the next few days as the work is completed.

Coombs Road and Gorsty Hill Road were made one-way in April while South Staffs Water and National Grid carried out the £500,000 project. Traders said takings had dropped by half in that time.

Bosses said customers were being put off by a lack of parking and heavy traffic.

They are now drawing up claims for compensation for the money lost in recent months.

Stephanie Cox, landlady of the Bell and Bear pub in Gorsty Hill Road, said: "There is still a backlog of traffic building up from the lights but it will make things much better now the road is two-way again."

"The problem now is making people realise that it is all open and hope they can start coming again."

Bosses at the Olympia chip shop, Coombs Road were losing £500 a week and profits halved since work started.

Owner and mother-of-two Dalvinder Kaur said she was relieved the road had opened again but said the works had "wrecked" their business.

There are four-way temporary lights at the junction of Coombs Road, Haden Hill Road, Dudley Road and Furnace Hill.

Drivers have faced delays during rush hour but the council says disruption will be reduced as the phasing of the signals will be changed for the final 10 days of the work before it is completed around mid-November.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for transport, said: "The utility works are progressing well. The one-way system on Coombs Road has been removed which has improved traffic flow in the area. The utility companies tell us they are due to complete all their work by mid November. We apologise to residents, business and motorists for any disruption caused."

Pool swimmer dies

A PENSIONER who was pulled unconscious from the swimming pool at Dudley Leisure Centre has died.

The man, believed to be aged 74, and a regular at the pool, was taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital but died shortly afterwards. Ambulance crews were called to the Wellington Road centre at around 8.15am on Friday.

West Midlands Ambulance spokesman John Hawker said paramedics arrived to find resuscitation attempts under way.

"Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of everyone at the scene ... nothing could be done to save the man and he was confirmed dead shortly after arriving at hospital," he said.

Lighter side of horror director's work



Museum assistant Barry Armstrong looks at the work previously unseen cartoons, paintings and illustrations by a Dudley-born film director have gone on display in his home town.

The exhibition, Horror in Hollywood: The James Whale story, includes images from a selection of more than 70 unseen pieces of work.

They range from his time in the Holz-minden camp during the First World War through to paintings he did in his retirement in California.

The pieces have been loaned to the museum by Whale's great-great niece,



A piece showcasing Mr Whale's cartoon-like style



Another piece of work on show



James Whale

animators Cath Lloyd. The bulk of the work was kept in two suitcases in the attic at Cath's grandmother's house.

Whale, who died in 1957 aged 67, came from humble beginnings in Park Hill Street, Boffery Park, to become one of cinema's most influential directors. His work included such classics as Frankenstein and the Invisible Man in the 1930s.

One of six children born to a blast furnace man and a nurse, he attended Kate's Hill Board School, Bayliss Charity School and Dudley Blue Coat

School. His brothers went to work in heavy industry, but he was not strong enough so worked as a cobbler's apprentice.

Although famed as a director, Mr Whale began his career as an artist, actor and stage manager before making the transition to directing, first in the theatre and then the silver screen.

Many of the pieces are from his sketch books, featuring cartoons and witty captions. The exhibition at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery runs until January 12.

NEWS in brief

Three cottages set to be restored

THREE historic carpet weavers' cottages which date back more than 200 years will finally be restored under new plans.

There were fears the homes, which are empty in Kidderminster's Horsefair, would have to be demolished because of escalating repair costs.

But a project has been launched by the Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust to preserve the homes for future generations. Numbers 20, 21 and 22, known as the Weavers' Cottages, are Grade II-listed.

Police declaring war on burglars

POLICE in Wyre Forest have declared war on burglars with a raft of initiatives aimed at targeting persistent thieves.

The police chief heading the anti-burglary team says Operation Citadel will ensure criminals are caught early before they target other victims.

The drive includes a crime shop which has been manned in Kidderminster's Swan Centre and which focuses on burglaries.

Clothing centre opens after blaze

A CLOTHING centre in Kidderminster has reopened after a fire at the premises.

A faulty extractor fan had sparked the blaze and fire crews from Kidderminster and Bewdley were called to Cash4Clothes in Mill Street.

The building is used as a collection point and warehouse for clothing which is sorted and recycled for sale abroad.

Alert to drivers as clocks change

DRIVERS in Worcestershire are being urged to take care now the clock shave goes back.

The Safer Roads Partnership in West Mercia also says pedestrians should wear high-visibility clothing where possible.

The partnership said nationally road casualty rates increase when the clocks go back.

Society open day

CLENT History Society will hold its annual open day this month. It will take place at Clent Parish Hall, Church Avenue, on November 11 from 11am to 4pm. Entry costs £2. Children get in free.

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NEWS

Scouts' plans rescued by kindness of local people

FORMER Scouts, businesses and locals have rallied round to raise cash and donate equipment to a Dudley troop left "gutted" when burglars raided their HQ.

The break-in at 1st Bromley-Pensnett Scout group's hut in September scuppered the youngsters' plans for an autumn camp.

But, thanks to the generosity of the local community – including donations from elderly ex-Scouts – they will be off on a Christmas camp instead. Nearly 40 people who were upset to hear about their predicament have donated money or goods.

"We've been very touched by the response, especially as this is quite a deprived area," said Belinda Garratt, Beaver Scout leader and wife of Scout leader Andrew Garratt.

"We've been given a gazebo, eight new tents, axes, a camping cooker, items to sell at a car boot sale, and several cheques, including one for £1,000, another for £250, one for £200 and a couple for £100."

"Some of the donations have come from elderly people in the area who have scouting backgrounds – and they've been very generous. One man even gave us a new door to replace the one damaged in the break-in and came to fit it for us."

The troop has now invited all of the contributors to a special evening to thank them at the headquarters in Bromley, Pensnett, on November 23 at 6pm. More than 60 Scouts at the group were left "gutted" after burglars broke in.

Milk message from MP

AN MP spoke of the importance of youngsters drinking milk when she visited a group.

Margot James, MP for Stourbridge, spoke to bosses at Withymoor Playgroup in Brierley Hill, where children are encouraged to sit together on a "milk break". School milk is free for children in daycare or primary education under the age of five.

Youngsters show talent



Performers in Areley Kings Got Talent including winner Holly Brown, front second from right, dressed as a chimney sweep

CHILDREN in Stourport proved that they'd got talent at a competition held over two evenings at Areley Kings Village Hall.

The Areley Kings Got Talent contest attracted 22 acts, aged seven to 11, who sang, danced or played an instrument.

The performers appeared in front of a packed house of parents and friends and gave the four experienced judges a challenge in choosing just 10 performers for the finals.

The finalists then performed in front of another packed audience on

October 12, when singer and dancer Holly Brown, aged 10, took first place, winning the Jim Perry Cup and £30.

Singer Hannah Law, aged 11, was second and singer Mackenzie Lauren Mapp, 10, third.

Ten-year-old Alex Mills, who also entered as a singer, took the Graham Baldwin Cup for the best performer of the opposite gender to the winner – and Ella Kendrick carried off the Hazel Yates Cup for best seven-year-old. The event was supported by local organisations.

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LETTERS

Time to think big over theatre

ATTENTION has been drawn to the proposals of The Friends of the Hippodrome to renovate this former theatre with a view to restoring it.

As I understand it, plans to proceed with the necessary financial arrangements, restoration works and theatrical consultations are in hand and that certain celebrities have already expressed their support.

Whilst Dudley Council has a demolition order imposed on the property no meaningful application for funding can proceed. In the meantime, the matter is at a standstill.

I do not know whether removal of

BBC still a world best in spite of criticisms

MY word, yet another anti BBC hissy fit by the boy Rhodes because he thinks it is occasionally biased against his Tory government.

In his piece on October 23 he couldn't bear the BBC Radio 4 Today on October 20, because they dared to mention Labour criticism of Cameron's leadership, even though many of our own party don't rate him.

They also mentioned "Plebgate" and the appalling Andrew Mitchell. This reminded me of Rhodes' fury at the exposure of the Murdoch and Rebecca Brookes phone hacking scandal and her close friendship with the Camerons. The BBC is a world best, despite trash like Eastenders and too many unfunny comedians. I will always trust Paxman and colleagues to get the balance right.

JOHN SAVAGE

Kingswinford

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

We have done our bit now you do yours

SO according to certain sectors of society, predominately the younger generations, we old ones should contribute more to the Treasury by a) working longer; b) losing free TV licences; c) losing winter fuel allowances and d) losing our bus passes etc.

I would like to remind those of the younger generation that us old ones, in general, have worked for more than 50 years to earn sufficient to get married, bring up a family without child benefit for the first one and then a generous £8 for the next one. Contributed all our working life by paying NI and into a company pension which I could ill afford at the time as my wife and I were bringing up a young family of three so we went without. Had my career interrupted by two years National Service on active service in the Canal Zone, Egypt protecting Great Britain's and the free world's interests. Have done unpaid work for the benefit of my fellow man by serving as a parish councillor for years, setting up a Neighbourhood Watch and serving as chairman on the South Staffs Crime Prevention Panel. What more do the younger generation expect of us? We have done our bit, now it is up to you.

REG SEGGER, Swinford Way, Swindon

Let's fight back over high call charging

WHEN IS someone eventually gonna fight back against these stupidly high priced telephone numbers which we are then deliberately placed on hold to push the cost of the call up even further?

My girlfriend had a mobile phone bill of £125 because of the calls to the Department of Works and Pensions.

All she was trying to do was sort her mom's claim after her father had died and also try to sort her daughter's government training course out. She can't afford to pay the bill.

It's always the poor unfortunate who get penalised.

Calls to an ever-decreasing quality of government customer service should be paid for by them for their incompetence and not by the claimant.

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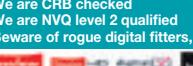
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NEWS

Fresh bid is launched to get 140 homes built

DEVELOPERS have launched a bid to get plans for 140 homes, a craft village and nursing home on a historic former brickworks approved at the second attempt after they were thrown out by council chiefs.

by Adam Burling

"clear" there should be no new housing developments other than in "major villages", which he says does not include Gospel End.

He argued, as the site lies in green belt, it could only get planning permission under "special circumstances".

However, the developers claim the land is among green belt sites that the council had said could be built on in the future.

The applicants are hoping to convince the Planning Inspectorate to overturn the council's original decision and give the go-ahead.

The inquiry has heard that the plans go against the Black Country Core Strategy, which lays out guidelines for major building projects in the region.

Mr Satnam Chooongh, representing the council, said the document made it

clear "there should be no new housing developments other than in 'major villages', which he says does not include Gospel End."

Councillors had argued the development would be too large for the village - but developers claim it would boost the area's economy and attract new visitors.

The applicants are hoping to convince the Planning Inspectorate to overturn the council's original decision and give the go-ahead.

"We have found a sustainable location where we can start a development that will have benefits for the area," said David Bridgwood, associate director for engineering firm Wardell Armstrong, on behalf of the applicants.

The plans include 12 craft workshops, a 60-bedroom nursing home and new road access from the A463.

Tipton-born Garry Sawers, 54, has backed the bid to stop the former theatre from being demolished.

The colourful cards are decorated with a picture of the former theatre and two hippos standing in front of the building. Inside the card, the greeting says: "Wishing you a bostin' Christmas". Mr Sawers, of Pensnett said he wanted to do something to help with the campaign to reopen the building.

Petition

More than 10,000 people have now signed a petition calling for it to be saved and The Friends of the Hippodrome group is finalising a costed business plan for the future.

Mr Sawers said: "The Hippodrome means a lot to people in Dudley, it is such a landmark. I just wanted to do my bit to help and I thought the Christmas cards would add a bit of festive cheer."

"If they prove popular I plan to create a range of different designs," Mr Sawers is asking for donations in return for the cards to go towards the campaign. He has even decorated the spare wheel on the back of his Honda CRV with the hippodrome design. To purchase Christmas cards contact Gaz at www.gazart.co.uk.

Garry Sawers who has made the Christmas cards

A SIGNWRITER and supporter of under-threat Dudley Hippodrome has created a selection of dedicated Christmas cards to show his backing to the campaign to save it.

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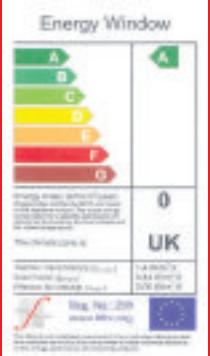
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NEWS

Boss skimmed £20,000 in nursing home fraud

Mooch around studio



Mooch members – from left, Ross Syner, Harvey Champion, Mike Hobin and Greg Wallace

A LIVE music venue and recording studio has opened in Stourbridge bringing 12 part-time and full-time jobs.

Moochers Jailhouse has been created at the former Conservative Club building in New Road.

More than 100 people came on the opening night to watch performances from Wales band The Guns and Kidderminster band Mooch, which is the club's house band.

Co-director Ross Syner, aged 21, said: "These are exciting times."

"We've been speaking to a lot of people from the area and they say a

venue like this is needed. We want to put on original live bands for people in Stourbridge. There are a lot of local bands here but there is no clear circuit."

"A lot of bands have to go out to Birmingham to get a decent gig so this is about giving them something closer to home."

"We're lining up some good bands for the coming months so hopefully we'll get a lot of interest."

"We're not looking to take on pubs in the area, we love pub gigs, we just want to offer people something different."

THE finance chief of a Wall Heath nursing home raided savings to buy toiletries for residents while plundering £20,000 from its bank accounts.

Debt-ridden Tracy Bennett secretly moved almost £3,000 into a personal bank account to pay her bills and then fiddled the books to try and cover up the three-and-a-half month crime spree, a judge heard.

She forged signatures on receipts that suggested cash had gone on buying a specialist chair, solicitor's fees or other expenses for residents at Holbeche House.

The 40-year-old single mother of twin girls also siphoned off a further £17,545 paid by local authorities to cover the accommodation costs of people living at the home, Wolverhampton Crown court was told.

Bennett joined the staff at Holbeche House in 2008 and worked her way up to become in charge of the finances.

Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, said: "When arrested, Bennett only admitted those offences that were incontrovertible and showed no remorse, blaming it all on her depression."

Bennett, of Broad Street, Kingswinford, admitted two charges of fraud involving a total of £20,496 and was given a 42-week jail sentence suspended for two years.

Bennett may be forced to hand over money and other assets from a proceeds of crime hearing in February.

Mr Bernard Porter, defending, revealed at Wolverhampton Crown Court that £8,500 found in Bennett's account when the scam was uncovered had since been frozen.

Police hunting criminal

DETECTIVES are hunting for a Stourbridge man who is wanted for recall to prison.

Donovan Taylor, aged 34, has not been complying with the terms of his licence and is believed to have continued to commit crime. He is a mixed race man, 5ft 10ins with black hair. Call Dudley police on 101.

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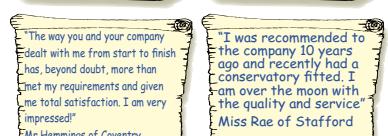


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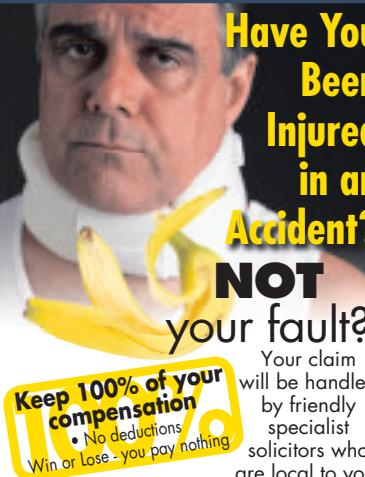


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NEWS

Man with £11,000 drugs has been given jail term

A MAN caught with a haul of drugs worth £11,000 and a stun gun has been jailed for four-and-a-half years.

Drug dealer Ryan Harper was arrested in March after police found the weapon in his car and drugs in his home.

He was released on bail and during that time officers returned to his home in Fairgreen Gardens, Pensnett, in July and found more illegal drugs. Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "On March 30 this year, police officers stopped the defendant in his car.

"In that car they found a stun gun which could cause significant harm. Having arrested the defendant, officers searched his home address. They found substantial quantity of drugs with an overall street value of £11,000."

Officers seized cannabis, methadone, cocaine and 1,656 diazepam tablets.

They also found digital scales and cling film used in the preparation of drugs with a view to selling it." In interview by police, former mechanic Harper said the drugs were for his own personal use and he was bald.

When officers visited his home on July 17 they found more drugs including crack cocaine and £340. Harper, aged 22, previously admitted eight charges of possessing drugs with intent to supply and possessing a prohibited weapon.

Mr Timothy Talbot-Webb, defending, said his client had become a drug dealer as a result of falling into debts due to his own drug use. The court heard Harper had a £350-a-week cocaine habit at the time.

Beer in running for gong

A BEER brewed at Lye will be in the running for a national award in the new year.

Worcester Sorcerer from Sadler's Ales will be contesting the category for bottled gold beers at the Society of Independent Brewers' national beer competition in Sheffield, Yorkshire, on March 13.

Hopping with delight



Louise and Daren Bale, owners of the Hop Pole Inn in Bewdley

A FAMILY-run pub in Bewdley has cooked up a storm to win two prestigious awards.

The Hop Pole Inn, on Cleobury Road, has been named the winner of the Taste of Worcestershire award in recognition of its use and support of local produce.

Chef Darren Bale came out on top in the Outstanding Contribution to

Food category. He and his wife Louise were also commended for their customer service. The awards were part of two separate competitions co-ordinated by tourism body Visit Worcestershire and lifestyle magazine Worcestershire Life. Mr Bale said: "To win two sought-after food awards really is one of the proudest moments of my career."

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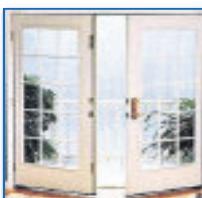
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NEWS

Appeal to lower speed on roads

AN "inappropriate" speed limit along some of a Dudley town's oldest streets could be cut following calls from residents.

People living in Stourbridge's Old Quarter want the existing 30mph limit to be reduced to 20mph.

Officials from Dudley Council have agreed to look into the issue after hearing of the concerns.

Residents say the roads are not suited to the amount of traffic and there is even less space to manoeuvre due to on-street parking. They have been supported by councillors, who say the speed limit is too fast.

Councillor Judy Foster, said: "The council will be considering the installation of a number of 20mph zones outside schools. This may not be appropriate or easily enforceable in other areas. However, we will have a look at the issues raised about Stourbridge Old Quarter. We will see if there is any work that can be done."

Ernie's in the beak of condition once again



Ernie with senior zoo keeper Laura Robbins after his trip to the animal hospital where he had his beak trimmed

ERNIE the African tortoise at Dudley Zoo can happily munch away on his favourite food again after having his beak trimmed.

Keepers noticed the tortoise's bite was not quite meeting properly in the middle and, although it was not causing him any distress, the zoo vet decided to trim it back quickly and easily.

Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said: "The vet used a mini orthopaedic grinder to trim Ernie's beak, a piece of equipment used to treat claw, bone, hoof and horn on other animals."

"It took about 20 minutes in the zoo's animal hospital. Ernie didn't seem at all bothered and was soon back in the paddock munching on his favourite dandelions."

Mental health is to be focus of public forum

MENTAL health services in Dudley will be the focus of the latest forum where members of the public are invited to air their views.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group is staging the event on November 6 at Saltwells Education Centre in Netherton at 4.30pm.

Information will be available about areas of mental health services including dementia care, therapy and children's services.

Helen Ashford, of NHS Dudley, said: "Dudley CCG is taking over from NHS Dudley and is responsible for buying your healthcare locally."

"They value the input we gain from the people who attend the healthcare forum which is now clinically led, and want to know what you think they should be concentrating on in terms of priorities in healthcare in the future." To book a place call 01384 321719.

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NEWS

Pupils start as asbestos is removed

RECEPTION pupils were finally starting lessons at a school after asbestos was found there.

Ceilings were being refurbished at Cotwall End Primary, Sedgley, as the potentially harmful material was found, delaying work.

Fifty children, aged four and five, should have started on September 4 but were instead accommodated at The Straits Primary.

The rest of the school has opened as usual since the start of the school year.

Nicole Anderton, Cotwall End Primary head, said: "We are really pleased that the children are back with us today. Their reception class looks really beautiful."

Blueprint aiming to shape centre

A BLUEPRINT to help shape the future of Halesowen town centre has been drawn up.

Halesowen Area Action Plan will help guide investment and identify where shops, homes and leisure developments will be.

The plan says there is a surplus of parking spaces, and that some could make way for shops and businesses.

One suggested site is office block Trinity Point and the High Street car park, which is under-used.

Among other sites is the Pool Road car park, owned by Dudley Council, which bosses say is suitable for retail.

The council also wants to encourage more people to live in the town centre. The plan says: "The re-use of vacant upper floors in a town centre location is one way of helping a town to become a living place 24 hours a day."

Council bosses are set to launch a public consultation.

A report due before Dudley Council's Cabinet recommends it runs from November 9 until December 12.

Director for the urban environment, John Millar, said: "Following this consultation, it is anticipated that the Area Action Place will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate during early 2013."

£2.3m sports shake-up is planned for academy

A £2.3 million sports hall and outdoor all-weather pitch will be built at a Dudley academy under plans to boost ailing facilities.

Staff say the sports hall and changing rooms at Holly Hall Academy are among the worst in the borough. The roof leaked creating about £30,000 of running repairs.

Part of the floor started to collapse, prompting head Graham Lloyd to call for new facilities. Staff also say that a Redgrave outdoor pitch at the Scots Green Close school, is "unusable" and needs replacing.

Plans are dependent on Holly Hall getting a share of a £276 million capital funding pot

from the Government and planning permission is needed to boost chances of the funding bid being accepted. Mr Lloyd said: "Our children deserve the best sports facilities but at the moment they are below par."

Plans recommended for approval at a council planning meeting include an astro-turf pitch over the Redgrave surface along with six floodlights and a new sports hall being built on grassed land on the site.

Sports England officials raised concerns about proposals to build on existing sports fields. The organisation's planning manager John Berry said that the development should not be to the detriment of the existing sports fields and running track.

Pop-up shop offering help for youngsters



Cutting the shop ribbon is Dudley North MP Ian Austin watched by Kayleigh Finlayson of Dudley and Chris Luty, a director of BCTG, the group behind the project

A POP-up shop offering unemployed teenagers help with training and finding a job has opened in Dudley.

Training experts BCTG have set up in former estate agents shop in Stone Street. The firm says it wants to take advantage of the empty premises so it can target teenagers currently not in education, training or employment.

The shop, opened by Dudley North MP Ian Austin, is open until November 23. BCTG director Chris Luty said it was a cost-effective way to provide a short-term centre for seven training providers. It is open Wednesday to Saturday with staff from training providers NACRO, Rathbone, Nova, St Thomas Network, Groundwork, Landau, YMCA as well as BASE Studios and Targeted Training Projects.

Tickets for fundraiser go on sale

Warning is issued over celebrations

TICKETS are on sale for the Last Choir Standing competition at Kidderminster Town Hall on December 5.

Cash raised at the event goes to Kemp Hospice, Mason Road, Kidderminster.

Competing are The Old Village Store, The Vocalettes, King Charles School Teachers, Elmfield Community Choir, Spectrum Singers and Kemp Hospice. Tickets at £7.50 and £5 for under 16's.

They are at Kidderminster Town Hall, Kemp Hospice and all its shops in Kidderminster, Spennells, Bewdley and Stourport. For information call 01562 756066 or emailing elemillward@kemphospice.org.uk

FIRE service bosses are warning people to take care during Bonfire Night and Diwali celebrations.

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service also issued advice to schools for teachers to promote fire-work and bonfire safety.

They are also encouraging people to go to an organised bonfire and firework display if they can.

Station commander Alan Haleys said: "We recognise that many people will be holding their own bonfire parties and get-togethers."

"And we want to remind them of some simple fire-work and bonfire safety tips to help avoid injury or any damage to their property."

Winners at college

DUDLEY College has been visited by the winners of Libya's young enterprise award as part of its work with the British Council.

The delegates, who competed on a regional and national level, saw their entrepreneurial skills rewarded with a visit to the UK.

While in the country, they visited companies to see first-hand how their skills could be put into practice.

One of the winners established a successful restaurant back home.

Companies visited included Walsall bakery Perfection Foods, based in Regal Drive, Pleck, who currently export cake and confectionery to Libya.

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NEWS

Fundraising champion is to get the royal approval

A FUNDRAISING champion who had a diabetes centre named after him at Kidderminster Hospital has been given the royal seal of approval.

Seventy-five-year-old Fred Holland, has been chosen to meet the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall at St James's Palace on November 29.

Charity WRVS named him one of its 'Diamond Champions' in recognition of his 42 years' fundraising work and his role as the chairman of Diabetes UK Midlands.

Mr Holland was one of 10 people from the Midlands to receive the honour, following more than 550 original nominations, which were then whittled down to 60.

He was presented with a specially-designed Diamond Champions pin at a ceremony in the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Birmingham and will also receive a certificate signed by the royal couple, who are joint patrons of the awards.

He said: "I just can't believe it. It was such a shock - a lovely one at that. I can't wait for the day to come."

"I felt very, very proud when they announced it. Everyone at the ceremony stood up and applauded me. It was a lovely feeling and a thoroughly enjoyable day."

The judges described him as "a gentleman and a pleasure to work alongside", adding: "He is more than a volunteer; he represents all a volunteer should be." Mr Holland, from Bewdley, has raised more than £140,000 for Diabetes Research.

Roadworks get started

WORK to resurface dozens of roads around Wyre Forest, as part of a £3.8 million improvement scheme aimed at reducing the number of potholes is getting under way.

Around 350 routes around Worcestershire have been repaired during the programme of surfacing being carried out by the county council. Workers have carried out surface dressing to cut the number of potholes that could potentially form in the future.

Web of mystery is spun



Headkeeper of the discovery trail Jamie Wood, with the Huntsman spider the average bathtub spider" - Cecil was taken to a vet after turning up in a popular cafe.

The Australian Huntsman - actually a female - is now in temporary digs at Bewdley's West Midland Safari Park. Described by West Midland Safari Park wildlife director Bob Lawrence as "bigger than

Sian Ward, whose aunts own The Granary cafe in Hay on Wye, captured the spider. Mr Lawrence said:

"There had been some Australian backpackers in the cafe so it may have been brought in on their luggage."

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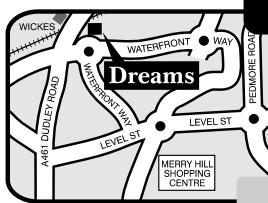


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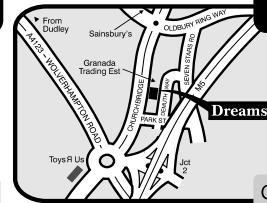
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CLOTHES Show Live is the UK's largest and most talked-about fashion and beauty event. This year, it is preparing to stage the most fashionable, inspirational and interactive show in its 24-year history.

And the Chronicle series has teamed up with organisers to give 40 readers the chance to win a pair of show tickets for Monday, December 10. At the heart of British fashion, Clothes Show Live 2012, in association with Suzuki, will take place from December 7-11 at Birmingham's NEC celebrating fashion at its finest.

The event will feature catwalk shows, designer guests, celebrities, makeovers, champagne bars, hundreds of fashion and beauty brands to shop from as well as the spectacular 5,500-seat Fashion Theatre showcasing the best of British design. Fronting this year's show is British model Daisy Lowe, star of campaigns for the likes of Chanel, Vivienne Westwood and Topshop.

This year the daily fashion shows in the Suzuki Fashion Theatre are being presented by stylist to the stars Grace Woodward and Brit fashion designer of the moment, Henry Holland.

Students

Also new this year is the incorporation of Britain and Ireland's Next Top Model Live in the Style Boutique, featuring even more fashion, catwalk shows, Model Master Class sessions and celebrity appearances – the ultimate girls' day out.

DJ and model Zara Martin has been announced as the host of the Diet Coke Image Catwalk showcasing High Street collections, final collections from fashion students and pieces from designers of the future.

The Style Studio will host talks by some of the country's leading stylists, workshops and career seminars on all things fashion related. Hundreds of fashion and beauty brands will be setting up pop-up shops in halls within the show.

Tickets are available now from www.clothesshowlive.com



Fronting the show is British model Daisy Lowe



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Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

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Advertisement Feature

Olympic Achievement for Halesowen Company

With a client list that includes Harrods, Bentley and Wembley Stadium, Shaw Stone Surfaces Ltd is being recognised in high places – and the firm's latest commission was no exception.

Brothers Gavin and Gareth Shaw, experienced stonemasons who founded the Halesowen business three years ago, were instructed to manufacture the quartz vanity tops for each of the 133 bathrooms of the new Holiday Inn Hotel at the Olympic Park in Stratford, London. The Hotel was purpose built for the London 2012 Olympic Games and accommodated Olympic officials, athletes as well as spectators.



Shaw Stone Surfaces, which specialises in the design, production and installation of granite work surfaces, was asked to supply and install a quartz vanity top and backsplash in each of the new hotel's bathrooms. Shaw Stone Surfaces Managing Director Gavin Shaw said that they had been approached to get involved with the Olympic Hotel after being involved in similar sized projects previously.

Fantastic

"London 2012 will go down as being one of our country's greatest ever sporting occasions. To think that we were part of this great occasion in some small way and that the officials and some athletes prepared themselves at the vanity tops we manufactured is absolutely fantastic."

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MEMORY LANE

A nurse tends to the care of young children at The Beeches. The windows are open to give the children fresh air



A banner calling for the hospital to be saved from the axe sits on the balcony of The Beeches which did shut in 1989



Lieutenant Colonel Waterhouse

Memories of hospital are needed for project

A HISTORY project capturing the changing phases of The Beeches Training Centre and Penn Hospital will be held at Wolverhampton Art Gallery next month.

Local people are being asked to share their memories of the site to produce a book and memorial bank.

Situated on the Penn Road, The Beeches is an 18th century grade II listed building and was originally a gentlemen's residence.

During the nineteenth century, it was the home of Lieut. Col. Waterhouse who sold it to Francis Gibbons, one of the oldest and biggest makers of locks and ironmongery.

In 1935, the house was purchased by Wolverhampton Royal

by Charlotte Lilley

Hospital which converted it into a convalescent home for women and children.

Throughout World War Two, patients at the Royal were evacuated to their homes and in 1941, the children's wards moved to the Penn site.

The first ward for seriously ill children opened at the Royal in 1951 and once patients showed signs of improvement, they were sent to The Beeches to recuperate.

Fresh air and sunlight from the large bay window is thought to have contributed to the children becoming well again and visitors walking down the Penn Road often mentioned seeing patients shivering on the balcony.

Young girls were given basic training to look after the children and lived on the top floor of the house.

Their duties included keeping them fed and amused, a hard task considering they were only children themselves.

The Beeches closed in 1989 but is noted for having looked after hundreds of children from Wolverhampton and surrounding areas suffering from serious illnesses such as Polio and Tuberculosis.

It was re-opened in 2004 as The Beeches Training and Education Centre, used for health and social care.

The art gallery project runs from November 17 until December 15. Anyone who would like to get involved should telephone 0121 612 8010.



A postcard of The Beeches for recuperating children to send to their parents

Advertisement Feature

Midlands Double Glazing Company Goes From Strength to Strength

DW Windows is an established family run business based in Sedgley who are bucking the trend with the downturn in the economy.

Since opening their Sedgley Showroom in May 2010 they have gone from strength to strength and currently employ fourteen people and are making plans to take on a fourth fitting team. Managing director Dave Walters who is

very much in control of the day to day running of the business puts this down to their top quality products, exceptional high standards of workmanship, professionalism and 100% reliability. They have added over 500 new customers in the last twelve months, the majority of these being recommendations.

They have recently upgraded their product range to keep up to speed with the

changing energy efficiency requirements and all of their window fitters are level 2 NVQ trained and are working towards level 3, all to ensure their products and workmanship are second to none.

The showroom is open six days a week and a late night open until 7pm on Thursdays. Pop in for a look around and pick up a brochure.



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CLUB NEWS

Stunned by magic of guest

KINGSWINFORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE

CHAIRMAN Audrey Phipps welcomed all the ladies, and Dr Bob King to the October meeting. Yvonne Brookes is recovering and is back home.

Audrey thanked the members for supporting last month's auction, also the committee for preparing the harvest supper. Places are available for the December lunch at Val Thacker's.

A cheque for £80 has been dispatched to the White House, Dudley, one of the group's chosen charities.

Tickets for the Christmas Party on December 20 will be on sale next month. Kathleen Turner has prepared, with the assistance of Yvonne Bayton, an impressive programme of speakers for next year.

Dr Bob King provided entertainment with his cabaret magic. The audience participated in the "mind reading" acts involving the cards and they tried, but failed, to master the Chinese rings.

The ladies were astonished by the act of levitation involving one of the members and the final acts of illusion, when water was turned to wine and a rabbit was produced out of a hat.

Ann Cooper gave a vote of thanks.

Sheila Evans, Barbara Moss and Olive Pigott won the raffle.

At the meeting on November 1 at the British Legion, Val Austwick was introducing the ladies to rug making.

Guild sets out stall at craft exhibition



Stallholders Margaret Worrall and Val Chalker at the Federation art & craft exhibition

PELSALL 'E' TG

Aldridge Community Centre was well attended. Pelsall's display included such items as a hand-knitted laptop cover, complete with stuffed mouse, knitted dolls and Christmas trees made from old magazines.

Next month's meeting will take the form of a mock auction with members bringing unwanted items to be sold off for charity. A short talk will be given by Sarah Heath of the Re-Assurance Team on Walsall Council.

Mystery 'wonder' revealed

WALL HEATH LADIES PROBUS CLUB

November 20, will also have a story to tell, and on December 18, the club is being entertained by St Andrews Church Choir, Sedgley.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month from 12.30pm for lunch. The club would love to hear from anyone with time to spare on a Tuesday. Call 01902 883315.

AT THE October meeting of the club, held at the Kingfisher Country Club & Hotel, members were intrigued by the subject to be presented by the speaker Mr Richardson, 'The Campden Wonder'. Was it a horse or a butterfly?

The mystery was revealed as a murderous tale in the Cotswolds area of Chipping Campden and the ladies' attention was held by the 17th century story.

Mr Richardson, an excellent speaker has a keen interest in historical happenings.

The speaker on Tuesday

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THE WAY I SEE IT

Good news that double dip recession has finally ended

IT'S good news that, with the help of the Olympics, Britain is finally out of the longest double-dip recession since the Second World War.

Here in Dudley we desperately need some good news on the economy.

A one-off boost from the Olympics is welcome, but it is no substitute for a plan to secure and sustain the strong recovery we need to create jobs, get the deficit down and make people better off.

This is no time for complacency and wishful thinking.

This week's figures show underlying growth remains weak and that our economy is only just back to the same size as a year ago – 12 months of damaging flatlining which has seen borrowing rise in the first half of this year.

The truth is George Osborne is way behind when it comes to delivering on the promises he made on jobs and growth and getting the deficit down.

The question for the coming months is whether and how we can catch up all the ground we have lost in the last two years.

FAMILIES

The last few weeks has seen a further round of price rises from the energy companies.

The typical dual fuel bill now comes to £1,310 and according to National Energy Action, there are currently 6.6million house-



Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

"You need a degree in advanced mathematics, as well as hours of spare time to disentangle the hundreds of complex energy tariffs ..."

holds across the UK who cannot afford to heat their homes.

You need a degree in advanced mathematics, as well as hours of spare time to disentangle the hundreds of complex energy tariffs and work out which provides best value.

When David Cameron tells people the answer to sky-high bills is simply to switch tariff he is admitting the Tories do not have a grip on the problem.

Instead of telling consumers they're to blame for not shopping around enough, he should be following Labour's lead and coming up with practical answers.

Labour's has launched the SwitchTogether service which brings people

together to switch providers all at once. By helping people to club together, consumers will have more bargaining power and will be able to demand better deals.

I'd urge people in Dudley to look into this scheme which is completely free and also available to people without internet access.

More information can be found on www.switchtogether.org.uk and the scheme will be open until November 25.

GRAZEBROOK

I hope people in Dudley will join me at the Grazebrook Remembrance Service at Grazebrook Park on Sunday November 11.

Remembrance Sunday falls on the 11th this year,

which was of course the date in 1918 when hostilities ended in the First World War.

At this year's service we will again come together to remember those who fought and lost their lives to serve their country and uphold the great British values of democracy, equality, freedom, fairness and tolerance.

The service is now in its sixth year and I organise it together with Councillor Shaukat Ali and the Friends of Buffrey Park.

The service will be led by the Rev Caroline Wickens and will begin at 9.30am.

TEENAGERS

I was delighted to open a new pop-up shop for unemployed teenagers on Friday.

The shop on Stone Street has been set up by Black Country Training Group and offers first-class help and guidance for young people who are not in education, employment or training.

Times are tough for young people at the moment so initiatives like this which will help to improve their skills and employment prospects are very welcome.

SURGERIES

If you have a personal issue you'd like to raise with me I'm holding surgeries on Friday November 2 and Saturday November 3 in Gornal, Sedgley, Wrens Nest, Woodsetton, Sledmere and Dudley Library.

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NEWS

Chef Aaron cooks up success at top contest

A CHEF who led a team of cooks in an international cookery challenge has won a prestigious award.

Aaron Darnley, Chef de Partie at The Queen's pub, Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, has won a bronze medal in the IKA Culinary Olympics in Germany.

The 23-year-old was captain of the junior England team from University College Birmingham for the event held between October 5 and 10.

The culinary competition attracts top chefs from around the world.

Aaron's teammates included April Setchley, Tom Campbell, Jake Sheldon, Richard Harvey and Brandon Smith, all currently students at the college.

Aaron, who is from Solihull, started his career at the Birmingham College of Food and is now working under the tutelage of Andy Waters, the head chef at The Queen's.

Scheme to stop drivers putting children at risk

WORK to stop motorists putting Kidderminster children in danger by overtaking near their school crossing has started. Mini traffic islands are being built after some "near misses" recently led to the lollipop warden in Birmingham Road being withdrawn because of safety fears.

Cricketers win awards

CRICKETERS from Dudley and Stourbridge bowed over the judges to clinch three "Oscas" (Outstanding Service to Cricket) - a major accolade for the sport.

North Worcestershire (Dudley) District Cricket Development Group was well represented at the Nat West Oscas, in the Nursery Pavilion at Lords.

Ian Blunt, of Oldswinford Cricket Club, won the Cricket Officials award, while Katie Blunt, also of Oldswinford, won the Young Volunteer of the year.

Worcestershire County Council will install the islands, known as "build-outs" on the hatched areas by the crossing near to Offord Primary School to prevent overtaking.

The project will cost about £11,000. The work, which follows discussions with residents and councillors, is expected to be completed within two or three days.

Improved warning signs will be installed on the A456 Birmingham Road after the build-outs are completed.

Worcestershire County Council councillor, John Smith, said: "These works will result in the prevention of unsafe overtaking, which has been a hazard for both children, and for crossing patrol staff."

Free car parking plan as part of regeneration

THE 1,900 car parking spaces at the centre of the £200 million regeneration of a Black Country town will be free for shoppers. The spaces will serve customers for the giant Tesco Extra store, and major retailers, restaurants and the eight-screen Odeon cinema being built in West Bromwich.

Supermarket bosses say there will be no charge to use the car park if customers spend a minimum amount in the store. However, that amount has not yet been set.

It will work similar to the scheme in place at Wednesbury's Morrisons store where customers who spend £5 can park for free.

It comes despite the revelation earlier this month that charges would be introduced on the 104-space car park to serve the £11m leisure centre, including swimming pool, on Moor Street, West Bromwich.

Tesco spokesman Jonathan Simpson said: "It will be free parking for up to three hours when customers spend an amount in store. The amount has not been decided just yet."

Almost 65 per cent of the space on the regeneration scheme is now let.

Major retailers have already committed to the development including Primark, Next, JD Sports, Bank, Arcadia and the anchor

by Alex Homer

Tesco Extra store as well as Nandos and Prezzo.

Shoe retailer Deichmann and Phones 4 U were among the latest trio of names to sign up in July, along with restaurant chain Harvester.

Cinema

The scheme will eventually create 2,000 jobs and will also include the 36,000 sq ft eight-screen cinema and restaurant space.

It is expected to be open from summer 2013.

Construction is gaining pace on the scheme, which will tie in with regeneration projects masterminded by Sandwell Council.

Are you game to have your reviews online?



Everybody Plays – co-founders Ian Morris and Sarah Hadley

A COMPUTER game expert is looking for families in the Black Country to help expand a successful website by submitting news and reviews.

Ian Morris, aged 25, runs Everybody Plays from his home in Stourbridge and first launched the site around two years ago. It can be accessed at www.everybodyplays.co.uk

"The site reviews console games and provides a guide on games families can play together. Ian said the site had been a big success, with a large female and family audience logging on regularly. People seem to think console games are the almost exclusive domain of teenage boys but the market has really opened up over the past few years," he added.

User died hours after taking drug

Old bangers used to aid good cause

A MAN died hours after being injected with heroin by a drug dealer who has since been jailed, an inquest heard.

Mark Wills was at home in Caslon Crescent, Stourbridge, when he called dealer Dean Huxley.

Dudley Coroners Court heard Mr Wills, aged 49, asked Huxley to inject him with the drug.

But the following day on August 3, 2011, Mr Wills, was found dead.

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain gave a verdict of death due to misadventure at the inquest in Dudley.

Cause of death was given as cardiac respiratory failure with alcohol, opiates and ischemic heart disease contributing.

College Thai on offer

Halesowen College BTEC Hospitality students have researched Thailand to help decorate the restaurant tables for two themed nights on November 14 and 15.

Level Three Diploma Catering students will prepare and cook four courses.

Student Jade Farrell, aged 16, a former pupil of Waseley Hills High School, said: "Join us and sample something different, enjoy your favourites or try something new in a great atmosphere."

People should arrive in time for a pre-dinner aperitif at 6.45pm, with dinner at 7pm at the £14.95 event.

For more details people should call the booking centre on 0121 602 7851 8am and 5pm or 0121 602 7777 (ext 211) between 5pm and 9pm or email restaurant@halesowen.ac.uk



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REVIEWS

Spotlight shines bright on X Factor Nikki

Blood Brothers, Hippodrome, Birmingham

THIS gritty production about a pair of estranged twins has both comical and dark elements that wonderfully complement each other from start to end.

The well-selected cast brings the tale to life but it is fair to say the spotlight shone brightest on Tamworth's Nikki Evans of X Factor fame who filled the

role of Mrs Johnstone exceptionally well and her voice carried superbly.

Set in Liverpool, the plot focuses on two brothers separated at birth that end up on the opposite side of the tracks, one a middle class school boy, the other a working class miscreant.

Their chance encounter and love of local girl Linda (Olivia Sloyan) drives them both to madness and ruin.

The role of Wet Wet Wet's Marti Pellow, as the harbinger of doom suits him to a Tee. His voice has lost none of its magic, but at times lacked clarity possibly due to the Scouse accent.

Brothers Eddie (Jorden Bird) and Mickey (Sean Jones) each go their separate ways but never truly stray from the friendship they share.

Tom Mason

Versatile Lakeman heads queue for musical talent

Seth Lakeman, Town Hall, Birmingham

WHEN they handed out musical talent not only was Seth Lakeman at the front of the queue but he also went back for seconds.

He came on to the thumping beat of More than Money then linked straight into Blacksmith's Prayer using the bouzouki, picking up the tempo with his distinctive voice coming clear over the instruments.

All-round Lakeman was joined by guest singer Lisbee Stanton for the ballad The Sender from his Barrel House album.

With a change of instrument, one of at least 10 throughout the concert, Lakeman pulled out Solomon Browne. Showing even more versa-

tility for Apple of his Eye, a song about cider making, he took to his fiddle and played pizzicato.

There was another change of instrument for the ballad White Hare which really showed the depth and clarity of his voice and the group moved to Blood Red Sky which had a Latin undertone.

He moved back to The Hurlers and made another change for the Take No Rogues, which featured a banging solo from the double bass.

Lakeman did his signature fiddle solo to end the set with his machine gun movements building up to a Vivaldi Four Seasons-style crescendo.

Danny Farragher



Seth Lakeman - musical talents

Joan shows some emotion on home soil

Joan Armatrading Symphony Hall, Birmingham

IT WAS an understated entrance for Joan Armatrading - on her home turf - singing Down To Zero as her opener with her distinctive voice filling the Symphony Hall even before she could be seen.

She played both acoustic and electric guitar with consummate ease and can also hammer out rifts like a seasoned

rock star. She also funkied it up with Show Some Emotion which moved smoothly into Single Life.

Joan used her wonderfully deep voice for another popular hit All The Way From America.

The hall lapped up everything the Emmy Award winner threw at them and even though it's now more than 30 years old she couldn't really get away without playing her biggest success

Love and Affection. She brought a mellow sound in the title track of her new album Starlight and showed real emotion in the haunting ballad The Weakness In Me.

It took Me Myself and I to get the crowd dancing in the aisles and she gave them what they wanted, finishing with Drop The Pilot and the last track on her new album, Summer Kisses.

Danny Farragher



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What's On! Dudley

Switching heavy metal to comedy

FORMER heavy metal drummer turned comedian Stephen Hughes has embarked on his second UK tour.

He will be performing at The Public in West Bromwich on Saturday (November 3) and the following night at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall. A date at the Glee Club in Birmingham follows on November 25.

Hughes, who was with the band Mortal Sin, has appeared on Live At The Apollo, One Night Stand, Stand Up Of The Week and Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow.

Celebrating the music of movies

A SERIES of matinee shows at Dudley Town Hall continues with a celebration of blockbuster movies and musicals.

Timeless Theatre: Rolling Back the Years takes place on November 5 at 2pm.

Tickets cost £11 from the box office on 01384 812812 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment.

Sounds of Miller

THE classic sounds of the Glenn Miller Orchestra are coming to Dudley.

Band leader Ray McVay will bring the sound of the 1940s to the Black Country on November 17 at 7.30pm.

The show features the Moonlight Serenaders. Tickets cost £18.50 on 01384 812812.

Son of rock and pop legend joins tribute to late father

ROLAN Bolan, the son of T.Rex star Marc Bolan and soul singer Gloria Jones, will be joining the top tribute act to his father, T.Rextasy, in concert at Bilton's Robin 2 venue on Saturday night.

Bolan junior was brought up in Los Angeles and the concert, celebrating Marc Bolan's 65th birthday, marks a rare UK appearance by the 37-year-old singer and songwriter. His glam rock star father was killed in a car accident in September 1977, aged 29.

During the 1970s Bolan, as leader of T.Rex and solo, had a string of hits and revolutionised the music scene alongside David Bowie and Roxy Music.

His hits included Ride A White Swan, Get It On, Hot Love, Metal Guru, Jeepster, Telegram Sam, 20th Century Boy, I Love To Boogie and Children of the Revolution.

The legacy is continued by T.Rextasy fronted by Bolan soundalike Danielz, who have been gigging around the world for 20 years – a lot longer than T.Rex did.

Rolan Bolan will be performing his own songs and some of his father's hits alongside T.Rextasy, live on stage from 8.30pm.

Tickets are available in advance from the Mount Pleasant venue for £12 (door £13). Call 01902 401211.



Kate Valentine as Musetta in Welsh National Opera's production of La bohème, being staged at Birmingham Hippodrome next week, picture by Catherine Ashmore

New opera season has La bohème

WELSH National Opera return to Birmingham Hippodrome next week with their critically-acclaimed new production of La bohème.

Their four-day visit will also include performances of Handel's oratorio Jephtha and Così fan tutte transferred to an English seaside resort.

This version of Puccini's La bohème is set in early 1900s Paris and features Alex Vicens as Rodolfo, Giselle Allen as Mimi and Kate Valentine as Musetta. It is staged on November 8 and 10.

Mozart's Così fan tutte is updated to a seaside resort in the 1960s in the version by Ben Davis featuring Elizabeth Watts and Marie Flavin. It's on November 9.

Tenor Robert Murray makes his WNO debut as Jephtha, set in war ravaged 1940s Europe, on Wednesday, November 7.

Say Hello Dolly at Grand Theatre

BILSTON Operatic Company presents the musical about romantic matchmaker Dolly Levi, Hello Dolly, at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next week.

The company will take the audience to 1890s New York for their version of the award-winning show which, when turned into a movie in 1969, made Barbra Streisand a star in the title song.

Maggie Page plays Dolly at the Grand from Tuesday to Saturday, and the big songs include Put On Your Sunday Clothes and, of course, the famous title song.

Spiritual sounds come from Africa

A TRADITIONAL African gospel concert will be performed in Dudley on November 3.

Nkoski Ka Ndlovu & The Experience, will also be recording their latest live CD and DVD at the gig.

Proceeds will go Mr Ndlovu's former school Zidulini primary in Zimbabwe, where he started a development project in 2009. The show is at Dudley Town Hall at 7pm. Tickets are £10 for adults, £7 children aged six to 15, and children up to five years old go free.

Play within a play

RIVAL playwrights play a deadly game in Ira Levin's 'play within a play' Deathtrap, staged by Highbury Theatre in Sheffield Road, Sutton Coldfield. It's on from November 6 to 17. Call 0121 373 2761.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 3.11.12

CHOICE



Eric Sykes

The Late Great Eric Sykes

BBC2, 8.45pm

Eric Sykes devoted his life to making people laugh, so the world was a lot duller when the final curtain came down on his showbusiness career with his death on July 4 this year. Now the BBC are finally devoting an evening to the man himself, with this documentary featuring Eddie Izzard, Russ Abbot, Michael Palin, Bruce Forsyth and director Mike Newell. Later, there's a classic episode of much-loved sitcom Sykes, and then another chance to see Arena: Sykes and a Day, from 2001. Covering his success in sitcom land.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** 11.30 Football Focus. **12.00 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather. **1.00 BBC News:** National News; Abu Dhabi Grand Prix Qualifying. **2.15 Live International Rugby League.** 4.30 Final Score. **5.20 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather. **5.40 Pointless Celebrities.**

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present another ballroom-based competition where couples bid to impress the judges and get their names at the top of the leaderboard. The results are tomorrow at 7.20pm.

8.15 Merlin. Three soothsayers cast a dark judgement upon Arthur, but despite Merlin's warning he heads along to houses to talk them over words seriously – so their fury rains down on Camelot.

9.00 Casualty. Dylan is asked out by a former patient, and a girl's desperation to pay her bullies off ends with her uncle visiting the ED. Connie Fisher guest stars.

9.50 The National Lottery Standard Chartered Drains. Classical singing group Amore perform as Mylene Klass reveals the winning numbers for the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

10.00 BBC News: Weather. **10.20 Match of the Day,** Including highlights of Manchester United v Arsenal; National Lottery Update.

11.45 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the championship.

12.25 Film: Bigger Than Ben: A Russian Outfit to Ripping Off London. (2008) **1.45 Weatherview.** (2009) **1.25 Film:** Octane. (2003)

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00 CBBC.** **12.00 Nigellissima.** (R) **12.30 Animal Park.** (R) **1.15 Film:** Bitter Victory. (1989) **2.15 Film:** The High and the Mighty. (1954) **5.15 Escape to the Country.** (R)

6.15 Flog It! People are invited to try to make money by selling their antiques at auction. (R)

7.15 Dambusters Declassified. Actor Martin Shaw takes to the skies to retrace the 1943 raid by 617 Squadron, which used bouncing bombs to attack dams in Germany. (R)

8.15 Dad's Army. The platoon helps Godfrey's widowed friend gather in the harvest on her farm. Starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)

8.45 The Late Great Eric Sykes. A tribute to the comedy writer and actor who died in July, featuring tributes from Edith Piaf, Michael Palin, Mike Newell, Russ Abbot and Bruce Forsyth.

9.45 OI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the quiz, with Jo Brand, John Sessions, Dara O Briain and regular panelist Alan Davies answering questions on the topic of celebrity.

10.30 Shows. These evenings are about to leave on holiday, so Hattie discloses the events of their previous vacation abroad. (R)

10.55 Arena: Sykes and a Day. A profile from 2001 of comedy writer and actor Eric Sykes, who reflects on his life and long career in television, radio and theatre and the people he worked with. (R)

12.05 Film: Frequently Asked Questions About Time Travel. (2003)

ITV1

6.00 CITV: CITV. **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** **10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** **11.15 Film:** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30 All Star Family Fortunes.** (R) **1.15 Holiday Home Sweet Home.** **3.15 Film:** Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back. (1980) **5.35 Regional Programme:** Weather. **5.50 ITV News:** Weather.

6.05 The Idiot Rules of TV. Joe Swash demonstrates the importance of health and safety, and Emma Holmes and Fiona Phillips talk about the pitfalls of making breakfast television.

6.35 New You've Been Framed! Comedian Harry Hill narrates a fresh selection of comical off-camera stories from his cameramen, mobile phones and webcams.

7.05 Take Me Out. A dancer, a debonair Londoner, a karate-loving businessman and a student try to impress 30 single women with a date to the Isle of Fernandos.

8.20 X Factor. The voting acts battle for viewers' votes and the approval of the four judges in the fifth live studio round, hosted by Dermot O'Leary. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.

10.05 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Olly Murs and Melissa George, plus music by Tinie Tempah and Calvin Harris.

11.05 ITV News: Weather. **11.20 FA Cup Highlights.**

12.35 The Store. ITV News Headlines. **2.35 Film:** Settled to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.20 ITV Nightscreen:** **3.30 ITV Morning News.**

11.15 Shows: What Happens in Vegas. (2008) Comedy, with Cameron Diaz. **1.05 Film:** Black Rain. (1999) **3.10 Hollyoaks.** **5.20 Countdown.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Channel 4 Presents – Nathan. (R) **6.10 The Hoobs.** **7.35 Volkswagen Racing Cup.** **7.05 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **8.15 The Morning Line.** **9.00 T4: 4Music Video Honours:** Best Video Nominees. **9.30 T4: Ne-Yo: London Live.** **10.00 T4: Suburgatory.** **11.35 T4: The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.35 T4: The Simpsons.** (R) **1.45 T4: The Simpson's.** (R) **4.00 Channel 4 Presents – Jonnie.** (R) **4.45 Channel 4 Racing.** **5.45 Come Dine with Me Down Under.** **4.45 Come Dine with Me Down Under.** **5.25 Come Dine with Me Down Under.**

6.00 Come Dine with Me Down Under. Lachlan Hosking hosts the fifth annual final night.

6.25 Channel 4 News.

6.55 4thought.tv. A musician who believes he has been in touch with his ancestors.

7.00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. The architect meets a man planning a bolt-hole in the Lake District and visits people in London who live and work in customised shipping containers. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. A water tower conversion in central London. (R)

9.00 Film: Green Zone. (2010) Premiere. A military officer searching Iraq for weapons of mass destruction after the US invasion uncovers a political conspiracy. Thriller, starring Matt Damon and Greg Kinnear.

11.15 Shows: What Happens in Vegas. (2008) Comedy, with Cameron Diaz. **1.05 Film:** Black Rain. (1999) **3.10 Hollyoaks.** **5.20 Countdown.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00 Power Rangers:** Super Samurai. **10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold.** **11.00 Film:** The Devil's Own. (1997) **11.40 Film:** Last of the Dogmen. (1995) **1.05 Film:** The Staircase Murders. (2007) Fact-based thriller, starring Treat Williams. **3.35 Film:** Dangerous Attraction. (2012) Thriller starring Amanda Righetti. **5.15 Film:** The Siege. (1980) Fact-based Second World War adventure, with Gregory Peck. **7.35 5 News Weekend.** **7.40 Film:** Zulu Dawn. (1979) Fact-based historical drama, charting events leading to the massacre of more than 1,500 British soldiers at Isandlwana. Prequel to Zulu, starring Bill Lancaster and Peter O'Toole.

10.00 CSI: Miami. Horatio looks the murder of a woman to Esteban Navarro, who he long suspected of being serial killer the Miami Tauter. Guest starring Kunie Becker and Raquel Welch.

11.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A blackjack player is murdered following a big win, but the investigation reveals the highroller was on an all-expenses paid weekend funded by his wealthy boss. (R)

11.55 Inside Hollywood. Magazine show with location reports, news and views from behind the scenes.

12.00 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.55 House Doctor.** Home improvements. **4.20 Divine Designs.** St. Sophia's Church, London. **4.45 Rough Guide to Journeys.** (R) **5.05 Hanna's Helpline.** (R) **5.15 The Milkshake Show.** (R) **5.35 Thomas & Friends.** (R) **5.50 Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Pop's Biggest Dance Craze. **8.00 Top Gear 9.00** Live at the Apollo. **9.30 Russell Howard's Good News** **10.00 MOBO Awards 2012**

BBC Four

7.00 Human Planet 8.00 Horizon: The Curse 9.00 Inspector Montalbano 10.50 Horror Europa with Mark Gatiss

ITV2

5.55 Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **7.50 Film:** E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) **10.05 The Xtra Factor 11.05 Take Me Out – The Gossip 11.50 Celebrity Juice**

ITV3

7.00 Rosemary & Thyme 8.00 Foyle's War **10.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot**

ITV4

2.10 Film: Where Eagles Dare (1969) **5.15 Film:** All Quiet on the Western Front (1930) **7.00 Film:** Law And Order: Louis Wolheim and John Wray **8.00 Film:** The Dam Busters (1954) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Michael Redgrave. **10.30 Film:** Raw Deal (1986) Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

E4

3.30 Made in Chelsea 4.30 Baggage 5.35 How I Met Your Mother 6.35 The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Rules of Engagement 9.00 Big Fat Quiz of the 90s 10.40 Film:** Underworld: Evolution (2006)

Film4

3.15 Robots (2005) Animated adventure, with the voice of Ewan McGregor. **5.00 New in Town** (2009) **6.50 The Devil Wears Prada** (2006) Comedy drama, starring Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and Emily Blunt. **9.00 Sex and the City** (2008) Comedy, starring Sarah Jessica Parker. **11.45 The Beast Stalker** (2008)

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Sweet Chilli Prawn Salad topped with Crispy Smoked Bacon
Mushrooms Pan Fried in Garlic Butter (V)

Main Course

Roast Turkey served with Homemade Roast Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Stuffing and 'Pigs in Blankets'
Pork Loin Chops topped with a Mushroom, Cider & Cream Sauce served with Mashed Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables
Poached Salmon on a bed of Wilted Spinach topped with a Tomato & Basil Sauce served with Potato Gratin and Seasonal Vegetables
Creamy Garlic Mushroom Pie served with Mashed Potato and Seasonal Vegetables (V)

Dessert

Traditional Christmas Pudding served with Custard
Lemon Tart with Cream and Fresh Berries
Chocolate Torte with Cream and Fresh Berries

Christmas Day Menu

To Start

Tomato & Roasted Pepper Soup (V)
Served with a freshly baked roll
Portobello Mushroom (V)
Topped with stilton on a bed of mixed leaves
Garlic & Coriander Prawn Salad

Main Course

ROAST TURKEY Served with goose fat roasties, mashed potato, seasonal vegetables, cranberry & pork stuffing and 'pigs in blankets'
ROAST BEEF Served with goose fat roasties, mashed potato, seasonal vegetables and Yorkshire pudding
BAKED SEA BASS Topped with a tomato & basil sauce
Served with potato gratin & seasonal vegetables
BUTTERNUT SQUASH (V) Stuffed with roast vegetables & couscous topped with parmesan
Served with potato gratin & seasonal vegetables

Dessert

Traditional Christmas Pudding
Served with brandy sauce
Sticky Toffee Pudding
Served with Custard
Raspberry & White Chocolate cheesecake
Served with cream & fresh berries
Mini Minced Pies & Homemade Petit Fours

Christmas Day Menu 3 Courses £34.95, Under 12's £19.95. Deposit required of £10 per head and full payment by 14th December.

Festive Fayre Menu 3 Courses £14.95 Deposit required of £5 per head

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What's On!**SUNDAY'S TV 4.11.12****CHOICE**

Damien Lewis

**Homeland
Channel 4, 9pm**

Admit it - you thought you'd have to wait to the end of the second season for someone to realise war hero-turned-politician Brody was in league with terrorists. Instead, only two episodes into the new season, Saul had found the recording of Brody's confession, Carrie was vindicated, and viewers realised they had no real idea where Homeland was going next. So, prepare to be back on the edge of the sofa, as this week Brody is back in prison - only this time it's on American soil, and he presumably won't have an adorable, tragic child to babysit.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** The Price is Right. **12.30** Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. **3.30** Nature's Miracle Babies. (R) **4.30** Points of View. **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **5.55** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.20 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison spends a day with wolf expert Ben Law in West Sussex, and presents highlights from past programmes on a forest theme, including John Craven's adventure in Snowdonia.

7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Another couple perform their last dance.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The experts visit the North Yorkshire town of Scarborough, where finds include a carved tribute to a Spitfire pilot killed in action, an early fridge and a Fijian war club.

9.00 Andrew Marr's History of the World. The Industrial Revolution.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Liverpool v Newcastle United.

11.25 The Graham Norton Show. With Robbie Williams, Paul O'Grady and Darcey Bussell. (R)

12.10 The Sky at Night. **12.30** Weatherview. **12.35** Sign Zone: The Choir: Sing While You Work. (R) **1.35** Holby City. **2.35** The Parade. (R) **3.35** Servants: The True Story of Life Below Stairs. (R) **4.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off. **12.30** The Great British Sewing Bee for the Week Ahead. **12.35** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.35** Film: Flower Drum Song. (1961) **3.40** Flog It! (R) **4.25** Film: The Tuxedo. (2002) **6.00 Fawlty Towers.** A rumour that hotel inspectors are in town brings out the worst in Basil as he tries to spot the undercover enemy without upsetting the guests. Guest starring Bernard Cribbins. (R)

6.30 Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve. Simon journeys from Oman to the Maldives, where the tropical coral islands are being damaged by bleaching and one entire island has been manufactured as a landfill dump. (R)

7.30 Obama: What Happened to Hope? Andrew Marr looks back at President Barack Obama's term in office, assessing if his administration has lived up to the high expectations.

8.30 Space Dive. Documentary about the record-breaking space jump last month, when he became the first person to freefall through the sound barrier.

10.00 Harry & Paul. The Minor Royals are confused by a homeless man.

10.30 Hebburn. Sarah's parents visit. (R)

11.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With guest host Ne-Yo. (R)

11.30 Film: American Beauty. (R) Drama, starring Kevin Spacey.

12.25 Film: The Big Kahuna. (1999) **2.50** BBC News. **4.35** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV. **9.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **10.10** The X Factor. (R) **11.50** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Film: You've Been Framed! (R) **3.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **4.30** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. **5.30** Downton Abbey. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Surprise Surprise. JLS, Robbie Savage and some of the stars of Towie make dreams come true for unsuspecting members of the public, and a woman meets her father for the first time.

8.00 The X Factor Results. Dermot O'Leary announces the outcome of the viewers' phone-in and the two least popular acts have to sing for survival.

9.00 Downton Abbey. The annual cricket match brings out Robert's competitive side. Violet's great-niece Rose arrives and Thomas's future lies in Carson's hands. Last in the series.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 FA Cup Highlights. Action from today's four remaining first-round matches in the world's oldest domestic cup competition, and a look at the draw for round two.

11.30 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the eighth round of fixtures, including Leicester Tigers v Northampton Saints, Harlequins v Gloucester and Saracens v London Wasps.

12.25 The Store. (ITV) News Headlines. **2.30** Garden Balls. (R) **3.20** Motorsport UK. **4.05** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Channel 4 Presents – Lee. (R) **6.15** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Extreme Sailing Series. **7.30** The Big Bang Theory. **8.00** Channel 4 Presents – Hannah. (R) **8.30** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Roast. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Film: Never Been Kissed. (1999) **3.30** Deal or No Deal. **4.30** The Price is Right. **5.30** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottie Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Mio Mao. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.25** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. **12.25** Film: Stargate. (1994) **2.30** Film: The Endangers of the Third Kind: The Director's Cut. (1977) **5.20** Looney Tunes. (R) **5.25** Film: Cats & Dogs. (2001) **7.10** 5 News Weekend.

7.15 Film: Hancock. (2008) Comedy, starring Will Smith and Charlize Theron.

9.00 Film: Bangkok Dangerous. (2008) Premiere. A hitman questions his way of life, while his employer plots to have him killed before his work is done. Action thriller remake, with Nicolas Cage and Shahkirt Yannarn.

11.00 Hatfields & McCoys. Ellison Hatfield is gravely injured in a knife fight. (R)

12.00 Bomber Boys: Revealed. (R)

1.00 SuperCasino. (2004) The FBI Files. (R) **5.00** Anna's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Castle Farm. (R) **7.00** Abby's Flying Custard Too. (R) **7.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Play! (R) **7.25** Noddy Toyland. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** The Power of One. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottie Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Mio Mao. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.25** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. **12.25** Film: Stargate. (1994) **2.30** Film: The Endangers of the Third Kind: The Director's Cut. (1977) **5.20** Looney Tunes. (R) **5.25** Film: Cats & Dogs. (2001) **7.10** 5 News Weekend.

7.15 Film: Kelly's Heroes (1970)

8.00 Film: The Dam Busters (1954)

9.00 Film: Apocalypse Now (1979) Vietnam War drama, starring Martin Sheen.

E4

3.10 Charlie's Angels 4.05 Made in Chelsea. 5.05 New Girl. 5.40 Suburgatory. 6.05 The Big Bang Theory. 8.00 Film: Three Men and a Baby (1987). 10.00 Misfits 11.00 The Work Experience 11.30 Made in Chelsea.

Film4

3.10 The Iron Giant (1999) 4.50 Love Happens (2009) 5.55 Fantastic Four (2005) Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Ioan Gruffudd. 9.00 The Twilight Saga: New Moon (2009) 11.35 Flags of Our Fathers (2006)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix Highlights. **8.00** Gavin & Stacey 9.00 Sun, Sex and Suspicions. Parents. **10.00** American Dad!

BBC Four

7.00 The Golden Age of Canals 8.00 Michael Wood: The Story of India.

9.00 JFK's Road to the White House: Primary 1960. **9.55** Film: The Devil's Backbone (2001) 11.35 Michael Wood: The Story of India.

ITV2

3.05 Film: The Polar Express (2004) 5.00 Take Me Out 6.15 Take Me Out – The Gossip 7.00 Film: Evan Almighty (2007) 9.00 The X Factor: Results 10.00 I'm a Celebrity... Best Stars Ever 11.00 Giraffe3ds.

ITV3

7.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot 9.00 Film: Murder on the Orient Express (1974) 11.40 Film: Stiff Upper Lips (1998).

ITV4

2.35 Film: Kelly's Heroes (1970) 5.30 Film: The Dam Busters (1954)

8.00 Premieres: Rugby Union

9.00 Film: Apocalypse Now (1979)

10.00 Film: Bangkok Dangerous. (2008) Premiere. A hitman questions his way of life, while his employer plots to have him killed before his work is done. Action thriller remake, with Nicolas Cage and Shahkirt Yannarn.

11.00 Hatfields & McCoys. Ellison Hatfield is gravely injured in a knife fight. (R)

12.00 Bomber Boys: Revealed. (R)

1.00 SuperCasino. (2004) The FBI Files. (R) **5.00** Anna's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

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What's On!

Film Choices

Monday

Revolver, Channel 5, 9pm

A gambler endures a seven-year stint in solitary confinement after being set up by his deranged and dangerous former boss, a malevolent casino-owner who also murdered his sister-in-law. On release he plans to exact a fitting revenge and sets out to bankrupt the villain, with the help of two enigmatic loan sharks. Guy Ritchie's crime drama, with Jason Statham, Ray Liotta, Vincent D'Onofrio, Terence Maynard and Andre Benjamin. (2005)

Tuesday

Lunacy, Channel 4, 1.05am

A man plagued by horrific nightmares of going mad is travelling home from his mother's funeral when an aristocrat offers him a place to stay for the night. He is soon dragged into a disturbing ritual and faces being "cured" of his dreams by being sent to an asylum where the patients' delusions are given free rein. Satirical horror, starring Pavel Liska and Jan Truskala. In Czech. (2005)

Wednesday

The Ring, BBC1, 11.15pm

A journalist investigates several teenage deaths, which are linked to a cursed videotape and the rumour that anyone who watches it will die a week later. Her growing obsession with the tape endangers herself and her family – and to avoid the predicted fate, she has just seven days to find out where the recording came from. Gore Verbinski's remake of the Japanese supernatural horror, starring Naomi Watts, Martin Henderson and Brian Cox. (2002)



The Ring, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.15pm

Thursday

The Inbetweeners Movie, Channel 4, 9pm

Awkward teenagers Simon, Will, Jay and Neil plan a holiday to the Greek island of Crete after they finish their exams, hoping to experience drink, sex and debauchery beyond their wildest dreams. However, things do not quite work out as planned. Comedy based on the TV series, with Joe Thomas, Simon Bird, James Buckley, Blake Harrison, Emily Head, Anthony Head, Lydia Rose Bewley and Laura Haddock. (2011)

Friday

Dave, ITV1, 10.35pm

A mild-mannered lookalike is asked to step in to impersonate the US president, who is recovering from a stroke. However, he soon realises that in addition to affairs of state, he also has to handle matters of the heart, bringing happiness back into the life of the disillusioned First Lady. Comedy, starring Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver, Frank Langella, Ben Kingsley, Ving Rhames and Kevin Dunn. (1993)

Pick of the Week

Gabriel's political drama mirrors real-life events

Politicians haven't been flavour of the month for, well, rather a few months now... which makes them a brilliant focus for a brand new drama.

Very loosely based on Chris Mullins' *A Very British Coup*, Secret State stars Gabriel Byrne as Tom Dawkins who, as deputy prime minister, decides to take on the American Petrochemical company Petrex after a devastating accident on British soil.

But it's not going to be easy for him. As a man who believes in transparency and open government, he's got his work cut out in tackling vested interests as he goes about the task of finding out the truth behind the accident and getting justice for the families affected.

When the prime minister dies in suspicious circumstances, he's up against heavyweights Ros Yelland and Felix Durrell for the top job – but it's clear neither of his opponents have the victims' best interests at heart in their campaign.

Screen veteran that he is, Byrne is no stranger to gritty roles. You only

have to cast your mind back to 2003's *Vanity Fair* (in which he starred opposite Reese Witherspoon), and more recently his role in *Treatment* (for which he won a Golden Globe), to see that this is a man clearly up for a challenge.

But does he feel that the storyline in this is a little too close to home in a country where the government faces no end of cynicism at the present time?

"It sounds like we were imitating the headlines, but actually one of the problems of doing a contemporary thriller is that you have to race to beat the headlines."

The major incident that happens in this plot gives rise to the story is a huge petrochemical explosion in a small town in Northern England, where they're developing a drone fuel.

"Just a week before we finished it, there was a story in the paper about the development of nuclear-powered drones, and a possible scenario where what we've come to regard now as conventional warfare will be obsolete – so tanks, guns, regiments, all that stuff, would be replaced by the

possibility of a drone that can fly at jet speeds over continents with a nuclear payload."

However, the actor has no doubts about this drama's success. He explains: "I think the function of a really good political thriller is not providing the answers, but to raise questions."

"And that's why I believe these kinds of films are important, because you come in with the really big ideas on the back of a gripping story."

"One of the things that's interesting about this drama is that we're talking about a politician who speaks the truth, a man of integrity who stands up to the status quo."

One thing's for certain: you'll need to put your brain in gear – while this isn't going to be relaxed viewing, well done Channel 4 on another promising debate-provoking drama.

Charles Dance, Stephen Dillane, Rupert Penry-Jones, Douglas Hodge, Ruth Ineson, Siobhan Lavelle, Anna Madeley, Gina McKee, Ruth Negga, Jamie Sives, Al Weaver, Lia Williams, Susan Cookson and Russell Tovey co-star.



Gabriel Byrne stars in Secret State, Friday, Channel 4, 10pm

Best of the Rest

Monday

Food Unwrapped

Channel 4, 8.30pm

The nights are growing colder – despite our determination to wait, we've had the heating on for weeks – and nothing makes us feel even more cosy than a big plate of steaming hot tucker. But don't eat it while you're watching this, for goodness sake. This is the last episode of the eye-opening series which has enlightened us as to what really goes into our favourite foods. Matt Tebbutt finds himself in Sweden, and asks, while many smoked fish specialists use traditional smoking chimneys to rack up fish like haddock, how do they smoke products such as sausages, crisps and cheese?

Monroe

ITV1, 9pm

Great ITV medical dramas are few and far between, so considering how watchable this series has been, let's hope a third is in the pipeline. Alas, this is the last in the current series, and there's no shortage of drama for the Gabriel and the team. He throws a stag party for Nick at his flat, joined by Gillespie, Bradley and Jill, but the celebrations are cut short when a traffic accident brings a slew of new patients to St Matthew's. The cast includes Sarah Parish, Tom Riley and Neil Pearson.

Tuesday

Heston's Fantastical Food

Channel 4, 9pm

Heston Blumenthal is back, and once more he'll be tapping into his youth for inspiration. He'll be hoping to bring back the wonder and excitement of

childhood food memories and flavours on a monumental scale by super-sizing all manner of treats. The world's biggest 99 Flake and a record-breaking bag of Hula Hoops are on the menu. First up however is the good old breakfast, and he's not doing things by half. Aside from the world's largest boiled egg, he wants to dish up a massive bowl of cereal and the mother of all full Englishes.

Wednesday

Dallas

Channel 5, 9pm

Back in the day, Southfork Ranch may have been owned by oil tycoons, but strangely they could only afford one phone and wire coat hangers. If only JR, Bobby and the rest of the squabbling Ewings knew they were sitting on a bubbling reservoir of black liquid gold, they could have splashed out a bit. Alas, this is the last in the current series, but there's no shortage of drama following Rebecca's violent confrontation with Tommy. She tries to forget her problems as she joins the rest of the Ewings at Bobby's bedside in hospital. Meanwhile, Vicente Cano is plagued by Federal agents just as he is preparing to give Cliff Barnes the Southfork deeds and the South American rights to Christopher's methane company.

Brazil with Michael Palin

BBC1, 9pm

Actor Michael Palin is like a dog with a bone at the moment. He's determined to see every corner of Brazil, and as we reach the third

episode of his fascinating travelogue, it's clear he's not willing to leave any stone unturned. He's en route to Rio, one of the world's greatest cities, but stops off in the mineral-rich state of Minas Gerais to visit an old gold mine once owned by the British, before going to see one of the area's vast opencast iron ore mines – something which is fuelling Brazil's economy. It's then on to Rio De Janeiro, a place which he learns is suffering greatly from armed drug gangs controlling the shanty towns.

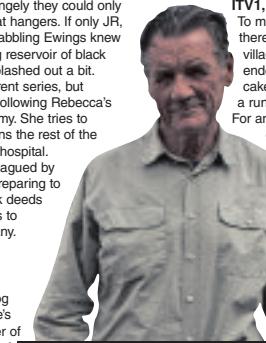
Thursday

Emmerdale at 40

ITV1, 8.30pm

To mark Emmerdale's 40th birthday, there were two weddings in the village. The first bride, Katie, ended up wearing her wedding cake, while the second, Chas, did a runner from her own reception.

For anywhere else, that would be considered something of a disaster, but as this look back over Emmerdale's history proves, the villagers are used to big days that don't exactly go to plan. Here, we get to reminiscence about the time Jimmy and Nicola had to dash to make it to the church on time because they'd been in court.



Brazil with Michael Palin, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

Friday

Derren Brown: Fear and Faith

Channel 4, 9pm

Like Derren Brown or not, you can't deny the man has a little bit of genius in him. He's been wowing audiences for years now, and a master of his game, his tricks and mind manipulations are still the best-kept secret in entertainment. For his next trick, in another two-parter, the showman will attempt to remove people's experience of fear through the use of a powerful new drug. Yes, it's another trick that initially we'll all roll our eyes at and wait with bated breath to see what comes of it. But without a doubt we'll be thoroughly transfixed to the telly by the end of the performance, as, whatever Brown claims to be, he does put on a bloomin' good show.

Attenborough's Ark: Natural World Special

BBC2, 9pm

No qualms about it, Sir David Attenborough is the kind of figurehead that will never need an introduction, his name now synonymous with some of the most weird and wonderful inhabitants of the animal kingdom. And yet the veteran broadcaster still doesn't show any signs of slowing the pace anytime soon – not bad going for a man in his mid-eighties. Well, it's been a short while since he last graced our screens, so he's back – this time, discussing the 10 most endangered animals from around the globe that he'd most like to save from extinction. First up, he explains about Darwin's frog, so special because it's the only frog in the world where the male gives birth to its young.

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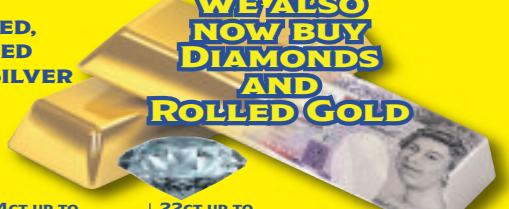
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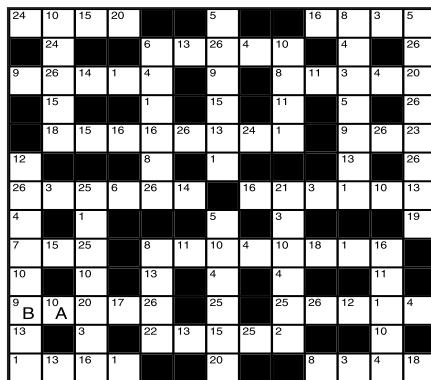
* Open: Monday-Saturday from 9 am-5 pm - you will need ID

What's On!**Brain Gym**

No.193

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	H	X	Q	R	I	U	M	P	T	B	Y	V	C
14	A	L	G	W	J	S	E	Z	D	K	F	T	N

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ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS**IN ONE HANDY APP!****Double Crossword**

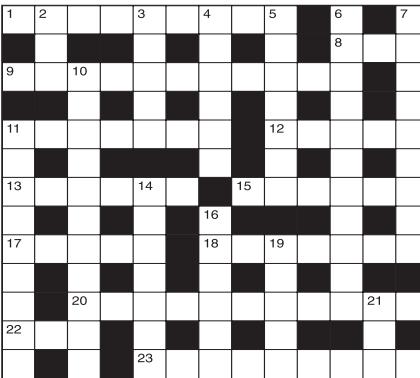
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:**Across**

- They should get what's coming to them (9)
- A custom, somewhat abused (3)
- Only a personal impression, but admissible as evidence (11)
- Fundamental shifting in cargo (7)
- Exhort in precise fashion (5)
- Set out and consumed what's left (6)
- Trade died perhaps, if workers were so weary! (4,5)
- Late tenders? (5,6)
- Give short change, it's a mistake of sorts (9)
- A monkish upper-cut? (7)
- Cautiously asking why the plumbing is wrong (8,3)
- Ivan has a novel need for this garden tool (3)
- Women tend to alter a permanent income (9)

Quick Clues:**Across**

- Not hurt (9)
- Watch (3)
- Hopeful (11)
- Gather (7)
- Exhaust (5)
- Fairness (6)
- Feast (6)
- Comprehend (5)
- Conceited person (7)
- Fickleness (11)
- Fuss (3)
- Protracted (9)
- Not hurt (9)
- Woman in religious order (3)
- Sharp (5)
- Cordial (6)
- Lessen (7)
- Disgrace (11)
- Contingent (9)
- Estimate (11)
- Parson (9)
- Characteristic (7)
- Flag (6)
- Extravagant (5)
- Is able (3)

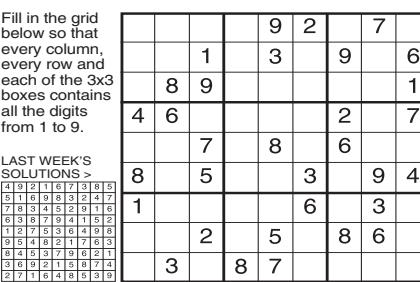
Down

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Mals; 8 Rustle; 10 Equator; 11 Tercie; 12 Sash; 13 Birth; 16 Riba; 22 Later; 23 Offences; 24 Remand; 25 Dealer; Down: 1 Disease; 2 Request; 3 Cloth; 4 Nurture; 5 Stem; 6 Repel; 9 Cremation; 14 Bearing; 15 Shingle; 16 Careers; 19 Alarm; 20 Stamp; 21 After; QUICK - Across: 7 Droops; 8 Gather; 10 Regular; 11 Tingie; 12 Save; 13 Rival; 17 State; 18 Sty; 22 Raise; 23 Curtail; 24 Flimsy; 25 Flagon. Down: 1 Address; 2 Forgive; 3 Spill; 4 Partial; 5 Shine; 6 Greet; 9 Armistice; 14 Atheist; 15 Strange; 16 Telling; 19 Craft; 20 Rigid; 21 Friar.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



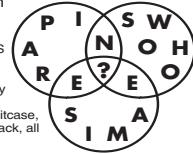
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

The letter represented by the question mark is C. Suitcase, satchel, rucksack, all types of bag.

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Despite the financial ill wind that has swept across the nation, property improvements are still all the rage in the West Midlands with many people looking to improve their home. Not only can you improve your living space but if you are thinking of selling your property you'll increase your chances in the ever challenging market.

For many people, time may be a factor with property improvements so why not let Chris Bayliss help out?

Chris has 25 years experience appraising and improving property to increase saleability and market value.

She works independently for clients wanting to sell or refresh their property and says "I love the challenge of analysing problems, finding and



Before



Before

implementing solutions so am happy to project manage changes from start to finish."

"It's not all about how much you spend "she continues....."many changes may be minor and inexpensive but it often helps to have another pair of eyes to see positive improvements for your property."

Chris is clearly passionate about all types of property and is available for full property consultations to assess your home. "Don't reduce the asking price if your home is for sale" Chris stresses "think of your property as a product - are you presenting what is possibly your most expensive asset at its optimum? I will review your property details and in most cases suggest inexpensive practical ways for your property to appeal to the majority of buyers. The changes for most properties will not cost anywhere near the suggested price reductions from estate agents which will be in the '000s."

Contact Chris today on 01902 677102 or 07811 550167 to discuss your property appraisal.

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Do you want to improve your chances of selling your property in the current challenging housing market?

Simple and inexpensive changes can make a significant difference to the look and feel of your property. So why not give your property the advantage with a property appraisal including how best to present your home to buyers.

Call Chris today to unlock the potential of your home!

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The top property guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Stourbridge, Kidderminster



This three-bedroomed home, in a favoured area of Tettenhall, is available priced £215,000

Detached property which is in need of refurbishment

A MODERN three bedroom detached house in the favoured residential location of Tettenhall is for sale priced at £215,000.

In need of refurbishment, the property – 1 The Meadway – offers the potential to extent (subject to planning permission) and includes an entrance hall, living room, separate dining room, conservatory, breakfast

kitchen, three bedrooms and coloured bathroom. At the side of the property is a driveway leading to a carport and garage.

Conservatory

On the ground floor the living room, 18ft by 11ft, has a tiled fireplace, the dining room is 9ft 8in by 9ft and the conservatory 11ft 8in by 7ft 10in.

A breakfast kitchen measuring 14ft 10in by 8ft 8in has a single drainer sink unit,

built-in cupboards and matching worktops. On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with pink suite comprising of panelled bath, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

Outside the rear garden has a full width patio overlooking a lawn and a variety of shrubs.

Call Thomas Harvey on 01902 758111 for more details.

Semi on market



Accommodation includes open plan lounge/dining area and kitchen and three bedrooms

A WELL-PRESENTED and spacious semi detached family home in Netherton is on the market priced at £164,950.

The house, in Hockley Lane, is conveniently located for amenities including shops, schools, rail station and the local road network

and also benefits from double glazing and gas central heating.

The accommodation briefly

comprises of entrance hall, open plan lounge/dining area and kitchen, three bedrooms and a stylish bathroom, with a driveway providing off-road parking with integral garage and an enclosed rear garden with raised patio decked area.

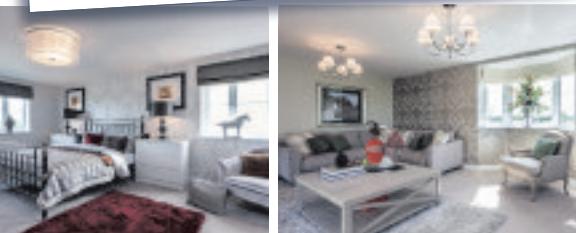
On the ground floor the kitchen has a range of matching wall and floor mounted cupboards and drawer units, work surfaces, sink unit with mixer tap, integrated oven plus gas hob and hood while

the lounge area has a log burner with an archway into the dining area which has patio doors to the patio.

There is also a utility area with plumbing for a washing machine and a ground floor WC.

On the first floor are three bedrooms – bedroom one with views of the reservoir – and a bathroom with panelled bath and electric power shower, wash basin and WC.

Call Skitts on 01902 686868.



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WOMBOURNE



Tollhouse Way

A VERY LARGE DETACHED DAVID PAYNE FAMILY HOME enjoying an open front outlook, within an exclusive address, offering INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS, THREE STOREY accommodation, which requires some cosmetic improvement, comprising: Canopy Porch, Reception Hall, Large Living Room, Large Lounge, CONSERVATORY, Separate Dining Room, Staircase, Fitted Kitchen with appliances, Breakfast Room, Laundry, FIVE GOOD BEDROOMS, en suite to master, House Bathroom, Shower Room, GAS CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM and DOUBLE GLAZING. From lawns, BROAD DRIVEWAY, DOUBLE GARAGE, rear garden with OFFICE. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£309,950

LOWER GORNAL



Ruskin Avenue, Straits

RARE OPPORTUNITY - A gas centrally heated, primarily uPVC double glazed detached bungalow enviably situated in a favoured residential location within reasonable distance of so many amenities & facilities/open fields, etc and with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The property comprises entrance porch, central reception hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, block paved driveway & a lawned rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £195,000

QUARRY BANK



Woodland Avenue

This neatly presented, gas centrally heated, three bedroomed semi detached home is situated in an established residential location and may particularly appeal to first time buyers. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Guess WC, three good Bedrooms, Bathroom with white suite, Driveway and a pleasant rear Garden. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers in the Region Of £114,950

BRIERLEY HILL



North Street

This well presented, uPVC double glazed, three bedroomed, semi detached home benefits from Economy Seven storage heating, and may represent an ideal first time buyer's opportunity. Briefly comprises: entrance hall, L shape lounge/dining area, kitchen, three good bedrooms, bathroom, separate wc, garage, tarmacadam driveway with parking for two cars, and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£112,950

RUSSELLS HALL



Osprey Drive

This surprisingly spacious, double glazed (vast majority units), gas centrally heated, three bedroomed semi detached home would ideally benefit from cosmetic improvement/upgrades yet offers excellent potential. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, guest wc, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, driveway, and rear garden. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£98,950

LOWER GORNAL



Grosvenor Road South

Traditional, freehold, part uPVC double glazed intermediate terrace of character requiring some sympathetic updating. Many period features (i.e. lofty ceilings, original panelled doors & joinery, fireplaces, etc.) with the accommodation providing imposing reception hall (with staircase up to first floor), sitting room with bay, dining room, rear lobby, store, kitchen, two double bedrooms, bathroom, neat garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £84,950

UPPER GORNAL



Duke Street

A tremendously modernised & improved, GAS CENTRALLY HEATED & uPVC single glazed first floor flat with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS in popular neighbourhood. Recently re-decorated & upgraded accommodation includes reception hall, living/dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'maple' effect units & various appliances, double bedroom, reappointed/redecorated bathroom with stylish white suite, stone & an airing cupboard, communal grounds. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £64,950

NETHERTON



New Road

FOR REFURBISHMENT - A comparatively spacious end terrace modernised some years ago but neglected & now requiring significant refurbishment works. Accommodation includes imposing reception hall, store, two living rooms, kitchen, three generous bedrooms, bathroom, small garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £59,950

SEDGLEY



High Park Crescent

A tremendously ENLARGED/EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family residence in highly favoured district having been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent years. Outstanding accommodation includes reception hall, fitted cloakroom, further store, lounge with bay and 'hole in the wall' feature fireplace, magnificient 17ft. wide 'hub of the house' dining kitchen with a fine range of built-in brickwork double glazed CONSERVATORY off. To the first floor are four generous bedrooms (two with a wide range of fitted units), stylish reappointed bathroom with white suite. Staircase leads to further playroom/office/potential bedrooms. Garage, delightful secluded garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £252,500

DUDLEY



Abbotsford Drive

A quite exceptional, highly individual & spacious, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family home having the benefit of some very good views over the area of Russell Hill Hospital. Meticulously presented accommodation includes entrance vestibule, reception hall, magnificient transverse lounge, sitting room (alternate fireplace), shower room, refitted 'hub of the house' dining kitchen with a fine range of built-in integrated appliances, garden room, utility room. To the first floor are two double bedrooms (both with extensive wardrobes) & bathroom with a 'Heritage' suite. MAGNIFICENT DISTANT VIEWS, large rear garden, secluded garden & further options available with potential extensive parking to front. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £249,950

DUDLEY



Chillington Drive, 'Highgate Park'

An absolutely outstanding, extremely stylish, modern, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached family home that has been 'transformed' in recent years. The accommodation now comprises entrance vestibule, T-shape reception hall, elegant dining room with bay, cloakroom, refitted breakfast kitchen with an extensive range of 'light beech' effect units with integrated oven, microwave, washing machine, dishwasher, laundry, superb lounge with Scandinavian glazed 'living flame' feature fire and a large uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY beyond, further store, fitted cloakroom, office. Principal bedroom with built-in wardrobes, en suite shower room with separate bath, double aspect, double brick-paved parking DOUBLE GARAGE, gated hard standing suitable for caravan, garden. PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £234,950

COSELEY



Catherine Road, Hurst Hill

NO UPWARD CHAIN. An EXTREMELY LARGE FAMILY HOUSE, a large centrally heated & uPVC double glazed 4/5 bedroomed detached providing extremely flexible room arrangements to suit a wide range of family requirements. Accommodation presently comprises entrance porch, imposing reception hall, fitted cloakroom/showers room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, utility, separate wc, breakfast kitchen (with 'utility' - conservatory addition), 21ft lounge with patio doors. FOUR BEDROOMS (one with shower room en suite), reappointed bathroom with separate bath & shower, garage, block paved parking DOUBLE GARAGE, gated hard standing suitable for caravan, garden. PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £210,000

SEDGLEY



"Jubilee Mews", Tipton Road

An exclusive gated development of just six four bedroomed properties on the periphery of Sedgley regarding comparison to an equally well specified development by Kinsboro Homes renowned local builders and to be covered by NHBC guarantee. There are two designs to select from 'The Burcot' & 'The Spadesbourne' offering generously proportioned accommodation on three floors & prices start from just £199,950. Show Home open daily 11.00 am - 4.00 pm. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

DUDLEY



Ripley Grove

Recently built, exceptionally stylish (former showhome), gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family home occupying fine corner plot & covered by remainder of NHBC. Accommodation provides imposing reception hall with spacious fitted cloakroom, through lounge with double french doors out to garden, good size dining kitchen acting as hub of the house with integrated units and may integrate additional units. FOUR BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with built in wardrobes & shower room en suite - built in wardrobes to second bedroom), bathroom with white suite, landscaped garden & brick GARAGE to side. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £188,950

DUDLEY



Austin Close, Milking Bank

A significantly EXTENDED & conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated detached family home having the benefit of some very good distant views from the front. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £179,995

DUDLEY



Eilmstone Close

Envably situated just of Richborough Drive with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS, this most attractive, stylish, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated detached family home occupies a corner plot & is in exemplary order throughout. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, guest w.c., kitchen with a fine range of units, transverse lounge/dining room, three good bedrooms (principal bedroom with en suite), shower room, bungalow style garage, block paved driveway & a landscaped rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £176,950

LOWER GORNAL



Humphrey Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A primarily uPVC DOUBLE GLAZED, and gas centrally heated (combi boiler) detached in popular, particularly convenient, location. The house has been conscientiously maintained although offers further potential, and comprises; entrance porch, reception hall, living room, dining room, recently refitted kitchen (with range of 'light beech' units), utility, separate toilet, three bedrooms, bathroom, shower room (en suite). Garage, secluded rear garden, block paved foregarden, further parking. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £174,950

COSELEY



Greensand Drive

An attractive, spacious, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached (in favoured cul-de-sac) that has been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent years. Exemplary standard of accommodation throughout including; entrance porch, reception hall, enlarged 16'9" living room with bay, dining room, kitchen with a fine range of 'beech' effect units & various integrated appliances, pantry. Three generous bedrooms (two with built in double wardrobes) and a further eaves storage (with potential), enlarged/reappointed bathroom with white suite, garage, landscaped rear garden, block paved foregarden, further parking. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £169,950

COSELEY



Denise Drive

NO UPWARD CHAIN. An absolutely outstanding, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached (in favoured cul-de-sac) that has been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent years. Exemplary standard of accommodation throughout including; entrance porch, reception hall, ground floor WC, large Lounge with ample dining space, attractively fitted Kitchen with integrated units, EXCELLENT BUILT-IN CUPBOARDS (Master with Dressing Area/EN-SUITE) and House/Bathroom. With TWO ALLOCATED OFF-ROAD CAR PARKING SPACES and PLEASANT REAR GARDEN which enjoys the very private and attractive rear aspect. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Offers in the region of £168,995

KINGSWINFORD



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£161,950

BEARWOOD**129 Poplar Road****0121 434 4345****HALESOWEN****21 Hagley Road****0121 550 3978****SEDGLEY****2A Dudley Street****01902 880888****6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS****SEDGLEY**

Chevening Close (Off Richmond Road)

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow enviably situated at head of cul de sac within reasonable distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Comprises; entrance porch, reception hall, double cloak cupboard, two double bedrooms (both with wardrobes), bathroom, spacious 20'8" living/dining room with patio doors, kitchen, lengthy drive, brick garage, secluded rear garden, good distant views. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Price: £155,000

LOWER GORNAL

Deepdale Lane

Deceptively spacious, ENLARGED, three bedroom semi detached house in BASEMENT FLAT that has been 'modernised' in recent years. Central gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed accommodation comprises; Ground floor - entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room & enlarged/upgraded kitchen, with central access to rear garden, large double garage. First floor - three bedrooms & a reappointed shower room (former bathroom). Staircase (approach from hall or the store room) down to a 'lower ground floor flat' - comprising entrance section, bathroom, living/dining/breakfast areas with a kitchen section. Neat rear garden, good distant views. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

WOODSETTON

Woodsetton Close

A tremendously enhanced, gas centrally heated, primarily uPVC double glazed & cavity wall insulated semi detached in favoured cul de sac. Accommodation includes enlarged entrance porch, inner hallway, stylish living room, transverse dining kitchen with a fine range of units (patio doors out to garden), three bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with white suite, garage, secluded well tended rear garden, ample parking. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Price £145,950

WOLVERHAMPTON

Camberley Crescent, Ettingshall Park

Envirably situated upon WIDE CORNER PLOT in favoured section of the development with GOOD DISTANT VIEWS, a freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached with potential. Accommodation comprising porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, dining room, enlarged kitchen, three bedrooms (third bedroom enlarged into eaves space), bathroom, garage, gardens. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £142,000

COSELEY

Hospital Lane

NO UPWARD CHAIN. An EXTENDED, modernised & improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached in favoured district within walking distance of shops, schools, municipal park. Accommodation provides entrance porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, dining room, large kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, gardens. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £135,000

WORDSLEY

OPEN VIEW Sat 3rd Nov 11am-12.30

The Haven

Enjoying a superb cul-de-sac setting, close to local shops and amenities, this INCREIBLY SPACIOUS, MODERNISED SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW offers a very GENEROUSLY PROPORTIONED layout of accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, uPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising; reception hall, spacious L-shaped lounge, fitted kitchen with built-in appliances, excellent sized bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, en-suite reappointed shower room. With BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY with approach to GARAGE and enjoying a PLEASANTLY SECLUDED LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN. KINGSWINFOR OFFICE 01384 401777

£126,950

WORDSLEY**£10,000 REDUCTION**

Belle Vue

A IMPRESSIVE & DELIGHTFUL PERIOD MID TERRACE which is superbly located within a sought after address, offering a DECEITIVELY SPACIOUS, and PARTLY MODERNISED layout of accommodation, including; Large Lounge, Spacious Dining Kitchen with built in appliances, rear hall, large bay, large rear fitted bathroom with separate shower, TWO LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS and GAS CENTRAL HEATING. The rear garden is LARGE, SUNNY and attractively laid out with decking. KINGSWINFOR OFFICE 01384 401777

£124,950

COSELEY

Hurst Road, Hurst Hill

A delightful, SPACIOUS, tremendously modernised & improved, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached (terraced style) conveniently situated for so many amenities. Superbly presented accommodation includes lounge (with living flame gas fire), inner lobby, sitting room (with living flame gas fire) & access to useful cellar, refitted 15'7" kitchen with a fine range of 'light beech' effect units, laundry section, reappointed bathroom with white suite, THREE BEDROOMS, storage cupboard, sheltered & secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,950

UPPER GORNAL

Eve Lane

TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY! A freehold, gas centrally heated & part uPVC double glazed DETACHED bungalow with significant potential & rare advantage of GARAGE at rear set in established convenient district. Accommodation presently comprises entrance porch, central reception hall, living room with bay, two double bedrooms, enlarged 15'10" dining room, kitchen, bathroom, gardens (vehicular access from Vicarage Road). SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,950

SEDGLEY

Kings Road

An outstanding, exceptionally stylish, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed intermediate house that has been recently modernised by present vendors in recent years to an exemplary specification. Situated within walking distance of Bull Ring, fields, etc., the remarkable accommodation includes dining room ('hole in the wall living flame gas fire'), lobby, refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'light beech' effect units & various integrated appliances, reappointed bathroom with white suite/chrome detailing, THREE BEDROOMS, delightful secluded rear garden with recent decking. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £119,500

DUDLEY

Birmingham New Road

This traditional style, uPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated three bedroom semi detached home is sure to appeal to both young families, and first time buyers alike. Accommodation briefly comprises; entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, ground floor shower room/utility, conservatory/garden room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Driveway and a rear garden of good size. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £114,950

KINGSWINFORD**£5,000 REDUCTION**

Moss Grove

Very conveniently located just a short walk from the heart of Kingswinford and its excellent range of amenities, this CHARMING 'PERIOD' SEMI-DETACHED HOME outwardly retains much of its original character and charm, but now boasts modern appointments and offers a very generous layout of accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising; entrance porch, separate formal dining room, inner hall, well proportioned lounge, garden room, fitted kitchen, refitted bathroom, separate shower room, etc. etc. TWO EXCELLENT DOUBLE BEDROOMS. Set back beyond a small frontage, with gated side access to the LONG REAR GARDEN which is a pleasantly laid out with decking and lawn. KINGSWINFOR OFFICE 01384 401777

£114,950

LOWER GORNAL

Roundhouse Road

Enjoying panoramic distant views, this traditional style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated semi detached home that has been considerably improved/updated by the present owners, and may be of particular interest to first time buyers or young families. The stylish accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, living room, dining kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite. Concrete print drive, and a low maintenance rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £114,950

UPPER GORNAL

Eve Lane

An EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & double glazed, freehold semi detached with NO UPWARD CHAIN in established/convenient district. Accommodation provides reception hall, enlarged lounge, extended 21'6" breakfast kitchen, extended 19'2" sitting/dining room, three bedrooms, tiled shower room, lengthy drive, garage, neat secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £114,950

SEDGLEY

Monument Lane

TREMENDOUSLY MODERNISED & significantly improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & part uPVC double glazed semi detached starter home with panoramic DISTANT VIEWS in popular district. Stylish accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, stone, excellent lounge (with double french doors out to garden), refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'maple' effect units & various integrated appliances together with dining room section. Two double bedrooms & third room, recently re-furbished bathroom with white suite, design style & separate toilet, landscaped garden (the fenced/level section abutting onto 'paddock'. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £105,000

WOODCROSS

Beacon Street

Situated on periphery of Sedgley (just off Bath Street), a tremendously modernised & improved. Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed intermediate "starter home" that has been much enhanced by present vendors. Accommodation provides; lounge, transverse refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of "cherrywood" effect units with various integrated appliances. Two bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with a white suite. Secluded rear garden, off road parking. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £99,950

GORNAL WOOD

Flavells Lane

A distinctive & highly individual, freehold, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated double fronted cottage of character with further potential. Enjoying good distant views from the front, the property is set well back from the lane (pedestrian access only) and comprises entrance porch, dining room, central hallway, lounge with patio doors, kitchen, bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, garden designed for 'low maintenance'. No Parking. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £95,950

COSELEY

Bank Street

A tremendously modernised, enhanced & improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED traditional intermediate terrace in superb order throughout. Stylish accommodation includes lounge, refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units, two good bedrooms, bathroom with white "contemporary" suite, neat garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £89,950

DUDLEY

IDEAL INVESTMENT

Situated in an established residential location, and enjoying panoramic views to the rear, this traditional style, three bedroomed semi-detached family home would ideally benefit from cosmetic improvement and updating, yet offers excellent potential, and may represent an ideal first time buy. With majority uPVC double glazing and a gas central heating system, the property briefly comprises; entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs w/c, breakfast room, three bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, and a lengthy rear garden. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£89,950

PENSNETT

IDEAL INVESTMENT

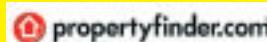
Forming part of this established address this TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME should appeal to first time buyers or buy-to-let investors and affords a layout with GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. To briefly comprise; sitting room with defined dining area, kitchen, large conservatory, two first floor bedrooms and an enclosed rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£74,950



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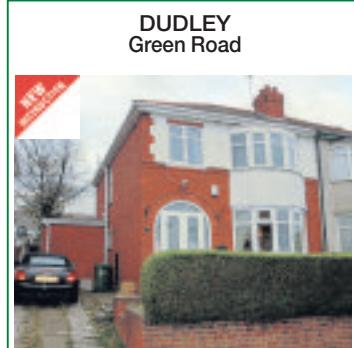
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management including
Guaranteed Rent

*Opening all the
right doors*

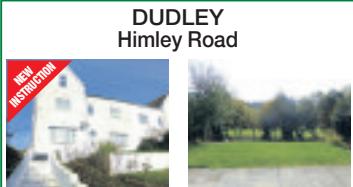
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DUDLEY
Green Road



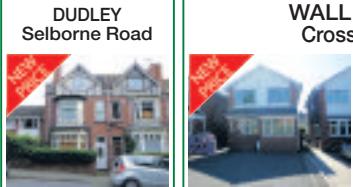
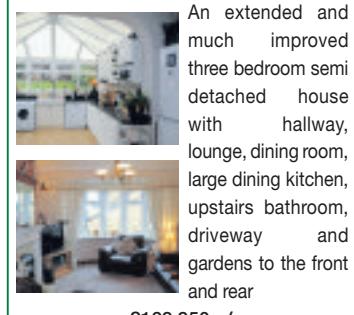
DUDLEY
Himley Road



LOWER GORNAL
Peak Drive

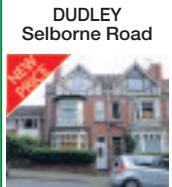


TIVIDALE
Hoylake Drive



An extended and much improved three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, dining room, large dining kitchen, upstairs bathroom, driveway and gardens to the front and rear

£129,950 o/o



DUDLEY
Selborne Road

WALL HEATH
Cross Street

BRIERLEY HILL
Kelling Close

An impressive three storey traditional four bedroom end terraced house with hallway, through lounge and dining area, kitchen with dining area, cellar, utility room, downstairs wc, garage and garden to the rear

£144,950

A four bedroom detached house located in the heart of Wall Heath with hallway, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, gardens to the front and rear and driveway to the front

£199,950

A two bedroom semi detached house set in a cul de sac location with lounge, fitted kitchen, gardens to the front and rear and driveway and garage.

£99,950

£129,950

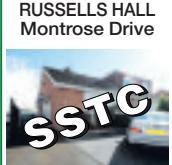


WANTED



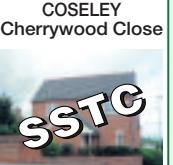
**Oldbury
Regan Drive**

Tividale area
We have a Mr C who has no property to sell desperately looking for a property in your area. Please call now for further information



**RUSSELLS HALL
Montrose Drive**

A three bedroom end terraced house with lounge, kitchen with dining area, downstairs wc, garden to the rear, garage and driveway £114,950



**DUDLEY
The Helper**

A three bedroom detached house with hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, driveway and garden to the rear £129,950



**COSELEY
Cherrywood Close**

A three bedroom detached house with lounge, dining room, conservatory, garage and garden to the rear (OPEN TO OFFERS) £139,950

£115,000

£129,950

£139,950



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UPPER GORNAL



BOTANY DRIVE

- A 3 Bed split level detached property
- In a desirable area with beautiful open aspect views to the rear.
- A recently constructed luxury conservatory
- Upvc double glazed windows,
- Gas central heating
- Garage & driveway providing.
- Viewing is highly recommended

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £229,950

LOWER GORNAL



WALLS WOOD

- REDUCED**
- A traditional 3 bed bay fronted semi
 - Quiet desirable location - open aspect to rear
 - Open plan lounge and dining room
 - Extended modern kitchen
 - Upvc double glazing
 - Gas central heating
 - Garage with utility area
 - Private rear gardens, sunny aspect

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £161,950

ETTINGSHALL PARK



GROSVENOR ROAD

- NEW**
- Attractively presented traditional semi
 - Lounge with dining area
 - Modern kitchen with integrated appliances
 - Three bedrooms
 - Fitted bathroom with corner bath
 - Garage, utility at rear
 - Well kept gardens

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £159,950

DUDLEY



THE BROADWAY

- 3 bed semi . REFURBISHED
- Separate front lounge
- Open plan rear dining room -
- Extended contemporary kitchen
- Modern bathroom, separate shower cubicle
- New central heating system
- Private south facing rear garden
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

STAMP DUTY PAID - £150,000

HURST HILL, COSELEY



CLIFTON STREET

- An impressive end terraced property enhanced throughout yet retaining some original features
- Spacious dining room with open fire
- Lounge with feature wood burner
- Breakfast kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Delightful rear garden
- Viewing highly recommended

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £119,950

LARKSVIEW, DUDLEY



- REDUCED**
- Internal viewing essential to appreciate this modern deceptively spacious townhouse
 - Large lounge . Conservatory
 - Breakfast kitchen
 - Two bedrooms
 - Large end plot with excellent sized rear garden
 - Two allocated parking spaces

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £114,950

COSELEY



SPRINGVALE CLOSE

- A superbly presented family home ,Refurbished to a high standard
- Modern kitchen/dining room
- Lounge
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Modern bathroom
- Block paved driveway
- Rear garden with summerhouse
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £109,950

GORNAL WOOD



BULL STREET

- A traditional three bed semi with lots of potential, in need of updating
- Two reception rooms
- Downstairs bathroom
- WC off main bedroom
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed windows
- Generous sized rear garden
- Driveway parking
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £104,950

UPPER GORNAL



QUARRY BROW

- NEW**
- An ideal 1st time purchase
 - A traditional semi detached
 - Modernised throughout
 - Dining kitchen
 - Store and downstairs wc
 - Excellent sized lounge
 - Two double bedrooms
 - Extra wide driveway

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £94,950

DUDLEY



WOODSIDE ROAD

- NEW**
- Three bedroom semi-detached
 - Quiet cul-de-sac location
 - Some updating required
 - Lounge/dining room
 - Breakfast kitchen
 - Corner plot with parking
 - No upward chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £89,950

COSELEY



VICARAGE ROAD

- Excellent sized 2 bed semi
- Some cosmetic updating required
- Dining kitchen and lounge
- Two store rooms
- Upvc double glazing
- Gas central Heating
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £89,950

SEDGLEY



ETTYMORE CLOSE

- Modern two bed maisonette
- Walking distance to Sedgley centre
- Breakfast kitchen & good sized lounge
- Two bedrooms & bathroom on the second level
- UPVC double glazed windows
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Ideal first time purchase /buy-to-let

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £89,950

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PROFESSIONAL, TRUSTED, NOTABLE



- LAWNSWOOD, HUNTERS RIDE**
- Impressive refurbished annex enjoying a spectacular semi rural location
 - Four bedrooms, master with ensuite shower room
 - Luxury fitted kitchen with built in oven, hob, dish washer, fridge & freezer
 - Splendid lounge with arch to dining room • Ground floor wet room
 - Gas central heating, upvc double glazing
 - Drive way & use of the gardens
 - No dss - No pets

£950 PCM INC ALL BILLS



- DUDLEY, DIBDALE ROAD WEST**
- Impressive detached property
 - Three good size bedrooms, master with ensuite
 - Lounge with fireplace & feature lighting
 - Stylish fitted dining kitchen with built in oven and hob
 - Refitted bathroom with corner bath
 - Gas central heating, upvc double glazing
 - Delightful rear garden, garage & drive way
 - No dss - No pets

£695 PCM



- BRIERLEY HILL, BRETTELL LANE**
- Impressive refurbished property
 - Three bedrooms, splendid lounge
 - Superb refitted dining kitchen with oven and hob
 - Refitted bathroom with corner bath
 - Gas central heating, double glazing
 - Delightful rear garden and drive way
 - No dss - No pets

£575 PCM



- DUDLEY, KINSWINFORD ROAD**
- Superb semi detached family home
 - Three bedrooms
 - Close to Brierley Hill Hospital
 - Superb lounge, separate dining room
 - Fitted kitchen with cooker, bathroom with shower over the bath
 - Gas central heating, double glazing
 - Delightful rear garden and drive way
 - No dss - No pets

£575 PCM



- DUDLEY, DEVON CRESCENT**
- Splendid semi detached property
 - Three bedrooms, attractive lounge with feature fire place and laminate flooring
 - Superb breakfast kitchen with cooker
 - Bathroom with heritage suite and roll top bath
 - Ground floor W.C.
 - Gas central heating, upvc double glazing
 - Landscaped rear garden and block paved drive way
 - No dss - No pets

£550 PCM



- DUDLEY, GRENVILLE ROAD**
- Impressive semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms, splendid lounge
 - Superb dining kitchen with built in oven and hob
 - Bathroom with shower over the bath
 - Gas central heating, upvc double glazing
 - Delightful rear garden and driveway
 - No dss - No pets

£535 PCM



- BRIERLEY HILL, DADFORD VIEW**
- Impressive modern house, two bedrooms
 - Superb lounge with gas fire
 - Splendid kitchen with cooker
 - Bathroom with shower over the bath
 - Electric heating, upvc double glazing
 - Delightful front garden, allocated parking
 - No dss - No pets

£475 PCM



- BRIERLEY HILL, ALBION STREET**
- Impressive and stylish second floor apartment
 - Two bedrooms, master with double bed
 - Spacious lounge with leather reclining sofa
 - Splendid fitted kitchen with oven, hob, fridge and washing machine
 - Refitted shower room, electric storage heating
 - Upvc double glazing, intercom entrance hall and allocated parking
 - No dss - No pets

£460 PCM



- DUDLEY, WELLINGTON ROAD**
- Spacious first floor apartment
 - One double bedroom
 - Splendid lounge
 - Superb fitted kitchen with built in oven, hob and fridge
 - Shower room
 - Electric heating
 - Off road parking to the rear

£395 PCM No Pets



- BRIERLEY HILL, MOOR STREET**
- Superb first floor apartment
 - Two bedrooms master with built in wardrobes
 - Spacious lounge, attractive kitchen with built in oven & hob
 - Refitted bathroom with shower over the bath
 - Electric heating, upvc double glazing
 - Intercom entrance hall and allocated parking
 - No pets

£395 PCM



- BROCKMOOR, HIGH STREET**
- AVAILABLE NOW**
- Impressive terraced property, refurbished throughout to a very high standard
 - Three bedrooms, master with built in cupboard
 - Superb lounge, separate dining room with gas fire
 - Splendid lounge, separate dining room with gas fire
 - Superb refitted white gloss kitchen with cooker
 - Superb refitted bathroom with shower over the bath
 - Gas central heating, upvc double glazing and delightful rear garden
 - No dss - No pets

£525 PCM



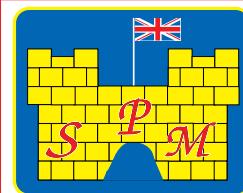
- BRIERLEY HILL, HIGH STREET**
- PTN Estates**
- Two splendid refurbished apartments, above high street shop
 - Two bedrooms, superb fitted kitchen
 - Large lounge, bathroom
 - Gas central heating and upvc double glazing

£395 PCM

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PENNETT**HIGH STREET****FOR SALE £149,995**

Detached property in a quiet back position with ample car parking for 3-4 cars. Local amenities on Wordsley Green, Entrance Porch & Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Separate Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden, and NO UPWARD CHAIN.

WORDSLY**LAWNSWOOD ROAD****FOR SALE £122,500**

Pleasantly and conveniently located for local amenities on Wordsley Green, this Mid terrace property comprises of: Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, Two Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Collar, Rear Garden, NO UPWARD CHAIN.

OLDBURY**CASTLE DRIVE****FOR SALE £59,950**

Ground Floor Leasehold Apartment Well Appointed & Maintained Spacious Accommodation, Comprising of: Secured Entrance Hall, Dual Aspect Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Glazing, Two Double Glazing, Family Bathroom, En Suite to Master Bedroom, Allocated Parking NO UPWARD CHAIN.

PENNETT**BLEWITT STREET****FOR SALE £59,950**

Semi detached property with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor WC, Two Bedrooms and a Bathroom. Benefits of the property include: Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Viewing by appointment only 01384 277701.

GORNAL**NEW****HIMLEY ROAD****£675 pcm**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Single Garage, Front & Rear Gardens.

BRIERLEY HILL**NEW****DADFORD VIEW****£460 pcm**

Cluster Home, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating.

KINGSWINFORD**NEW****FREELAND GROVE****£625 pcm**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking.

SELDLEY**NEW****ROWAN ROAD****£560 pcm**

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished.

GORNAL**NEW****TEMPLE STREET****£525 pcm**

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden, Unfurnished.

KINGSWINFORD**NEW****FLORIDA WAY****£695 pcm**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen/Diner, Four Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.

WORDSLEY**NEW****HORSHAM AVENUE****£795 pcm**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, WC, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Garden, Garage, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished.

WOODSETTON**NEW****WREN STREET****£575 pcm**

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, WC, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.

WORDSLY**NEW****KIRKPATRICK DRIVE****£575 pcm**

Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Maintained Grounds, Allocated Parking, Unfurnished.

WORDSLY**NEW****NURSERY LODGE, MARSHALL CRES****£575 pcm**

Ground Floor Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Communal Grounds, Off Road Parking, Available Immediately.

PENNETT**NEW****HIGH OAK****£525 pcm**

Semi-Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Bathroom with Shower, Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished. No Pets.

WALL HEATH**NEW****FELLOWS AVENUE****£725 pcm**

Detached Property, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Area, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Double Glazing, Large Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage.

GORNAL**NEW****CENTRAL DRIVE****£550 pcm**

Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Unfurnished.

PENNETT**NEW****HIGH STREET****£425 pcm**

First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Shower, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished.

KINGSWINFORD**NEW****MURDOCH DRIVE****£545 pcm**

First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Double Glazing, Communal Gardens, Off Road Parking.

GORNAL**NEW****EATON CRESCENT****£570 pcm**

Semi Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage, Unfurnished.

GREAT BRIDGE**NEW****EAGLE PLACE****£350 pcm**

Second Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Private Parking, Security Entrance.

OLDBURY**NEW****THE MORINGS****£425 pcm**

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Plan ahead for festive move – the Redrow show homes at Heritage Gardens, where some of the properties will be ready to move into in time for Christmas

Buy now – move in for Christmas

FESTIVE fun in a brand new home in the Black Country could be on the cards for buyers who have the presence of mind to act now. Selected properties at Heritage Gardens in Tipton and Chestnut Walk in Bilston are almost ready to move into.

And as a 'gift' to customers, award-winning Redrow is offering incentives to help get people moving including part exchange, Mastermove and 95 per cent mortgages through the NewBuy initiative. Those who wrap up the purchase of a new home before Christmas will receive an added present in the shape of having the stamp duty paid by Redrow.

Pauline Turnbull, sales director for Redrow Homes (Midlands), commented: "The festive season may only be weeks away, but there's still time for families to move in time for Christmas. In fact, even those with an existing property to sell could be unlocking the door to a brand new home before they've opened the first door on their advent calendar thanks to part

exchange. Put simply, we will buy their old home from them so that they can buy one of ours.

"Alternatively, with our Mastermove service we will enlist the help of a tried and tested local agent to sell the customer's home. There's even the chance to own one of our stylish new homes with a five per cent deposit and 95 per cent mortgage with NewBuy."

Between them, Heritage Gardens and Chestnut Walk offer a good choice of three and four-bedroom homes, with prices from £164,995.

Open plan kitchen and dining rooms in the homes make the perfect setting for a festive family feast.

Kitchens in all new Redrow homes are well equipped with integrated top brand name appliances, including oven, hob, microwave and a fridge freezer big enough for the turkey. There are also tall cabinets and extra wide drawers that offer a stylish storage solution for any extra mince pies.

Pauline said: "The bedrooms in our homes are all well proportioned so for those on Santa's 'nice list' there'll be no need to worry about where to keep presents on Boxing Day and beyond.



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Fascination with the first sighting of the new Mokka

NO sooner had we pulled into a layby on the autobahn north of Hamburg to swap drivers on the launch of Vauxhall's new Mokka than the couple in an Opel parked ahead of us got out and started towards our car.

Minutes before, they'd passed us (both cars 'enjoying' the lack of a speed limit on this stretch of motorway) and were clearly fascinated with their first sight of the Mokka, especially as ours carried Vauxhall badges, not the lightning flash of the Opel brand, German sister to the British machines with a Luton base.

Turned out the couple, just into retirement, had both worked for Opel at its HQ and wanted a look at the newcomer. They liked it and may already have added the Mokka to the list of possible Opels for consideration at car change time. With limbs less supple than in younger days, a tallish car like the Mokka

(es) it isn't going to catch the eye of passing motorists. Inside, this Korean built but German designed machine, looks rather severe and sensible in a typically Teutonic manner, but very nicely put together.

Promising start

Priced from £15,995, it comes with the choice of two petrol engines (1.4 and 1.6 litres) and a 1.7 litre diesel, with the latter likely to take more than half the sales in the UK. You can order your Mokka with all-wheel drive, the rears kicking in automatically when the front tyres start to lose traction, perhaps on the wet grass of a temporary car park or on a snowy drive to work. Approaching half of all British buyers are expected to take the all-wheel-drive route.

What engine drives those wheels depends on the buyer's needs and depth of pocket and, with the evidence of my ears, how much he or she values a quiet cockpit. The diesel Mokka, tried first, was never less than gruff (at a British motorway cruise) but ask it to accelerate from any speed and gruff turns into an irritating growl. It was enough to make me keen to try a petrol model as soon as possible.

Ah! That's better was my instant reaction. Because it's got petrol in its veins, the engine needs to be worked harder than the diesel but it stayed (much) quieter all the same. Mum might now hear the pleas of her little angels in the backseats about stopping for a burger.

Namecheck: Why Mokka? The best answer from the Vauxhall brass involved an association with mocha coffee, a cappuccino variant with added chocolate. But they really weren't sure.

Vauxhall is green with pride over their Corsa



The new Corsa 1.3 CDTi EcoFlex will be greener than any Vauxhall apart from the Ampera

VAUXHALL has announced a new variant of the Corsa with lower CO₂ emissions than any production by the company except the Ampera.

Producing just 88g/km of carbon dioxide in three-door form, the latest Corsa 1.3 CDTi's figures are 26 per cent lower than those of the first Corsa EcoFlex five years ago.

Peak combined fuel consumption for the new model is 85.6mpg, again for the lighter three-door model.

A five-door version is available with efficiency statistics of 89g/km and 83.1mpg.

The three-door represents a 6g/km and 2.4mpg improvement over the 2011 version of the same car.

All the improvements have come through small upgrades within the engine circuit.

Power and torque from the diesel engine stand at 94bhp and 140lb/ft, the latter of which is available in the ideal rev range, from 1,750 to 3,250rpm.

Top speed is 109mph and 0.62mph takes 12.3 seconds.

The wider Corsa range should now benefit from a more comfortable ride at low speeds, especially around town.

The suspension and damping characteristics have been altered to increase the car's appeal in its natural environment.

All models are available to order now.

By Ian Donaldson

would ease their entry and exit. Building it taller will help with putting much younger passengers on board too, as mum or dad leans in to belt the little 'uns into their seats.

And ages in between might find the added space of this small SUV fits their life well. Thousands more motorists all over Europe are finding SUVs the answer these days, turning this part of the car market into a profitable playground for the makers of everything from the Skoda Yeti to Nissan Duke.

Both are formidable competition for Vauxhall's first entry into this healthily expanding sector. At first glance it looks as though the Mokka is off to a promising start. It looks neat and tidy, even if (unlike the car-spotting ex-Opel employ-



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Martin is lacklustre visitors' goal hero

Coleshill Town 0 Gornal Athletic 1

BELOW-par Gornal banked another three Midland Alliance three points despite a lacklustre display at Coleshill.

A disappointing first half saw both sides struggle to create any noteworthy openings.

The first chance of the game came five minutes into the second half when Gornal's Calum Martin struck the underside of the bar.

It was Martin who scored the only goal of the game moments later. He latched onto a mistake in the Town defence following a Chris Rabone cross, and shot low into the bottom corner.

Coleshill pressed for an equaliser but lacked any quality in the final third to trouble the Gornal defence.

The home side did have the ball in the net on 88 minutes, but it was disallowed as James Travis had punched the ball into the net.

He was subsequently sent off after receiving his second yellow card of the game.

Dominant Dale hit by late strike

Heather St John's 3 Tividale 1
TIVIDALE went down after going behind in 20 seconds, dominating most of the game and being caught out with a sucker punch.

Saints' Joseph Price beat the returning Tim Beech and unsettled Dale until they began to take control of the midfield and create openings – all wasted.

Orlando Lewis and Kyle Brady missed out, as did full-back Jason Chilton with a superb shot from 25 yards.

The hosts hit a second as Price followed up on a fine Beech save from a free-kick.

Brady put another effort just wide, hit the bar and went close again just before half-time before Daniel Tyman rattled hit Dale's bar.

The second half saw Dale's Orlando Lewis slam home from 12 yards after an effort hit the bar.

They made a double substitution as Aaron Baines and Kyle Hill replaced James Cooper and Todd Evans but Saints' Ryan Nash scored on 88 minutes.

Chances to score missed in home defeat

Kingswinford 2nds 1 West Bromwich 2

KINGSWINFORD looked to quickly move on from last week's defeat at Tamworth by entertaining local rivals West Bromwich.

They made a slow start to the game and allowed West Brom to penetrate into their defending 25 several times – giving the visitors too much respect and too much time on the ball.

Indeed, after about 10 minutes, West Brom took a well deserved lead. Kingswinford tried to find their way back and despite confusion over player positions and lack

of general 'team play' – they forced an equaliser through Surjit Takhar.

Kings, however, reverted to slack marking and a mistake in midfield resulted in West Brom quickly breaking and hitting home their second just few minutes after Kings had equalised.

The rest of the second half saw chances created for both teams but West Brom looked more dangerous, especially on the break and with their aerial threat.

Some stern words were had at half-time regarding the poor first half – especially around the poor

Kingswinford Hockey

marking and the non-early breaking down of the opposition play.

Some changes in midfield responsibilities seemed to have an effect and saw Kings create several attacks of their own through Takhar and Bhadal.

Several goal scoring opportunities were created via open play and short corners but unfortunately none were taken.

The West Brom keeper made some good saves and, although Kings had a good proportion of

play in the second half, despairingly, they could not convert their second equaliser.

The second half remained goalless and the final score finished 2-1 to the visitors.

Kingswinford 3rds 1 Aldridge & Walsall 3

Kingswinford thirds welcomed Aldridge and Walsall to the Dell Stadium for a friendly fixture.

Walsall started the game stronger dominating possession and creating chances but were kept out by fine saves from Glenn Dunn.

Walsall continued to dominate

possession and took the lead with a well taken strike before doubling their lead shortly before half time.

At half-time captain Gordon Elcock made a tactical change in order to combat Aldridge and Walsall's domination but this seemed to have little effect with a third goal being scored straight after the restart.

K'ford regrouped after the third goal and started to work harder to gain possession. This effort paid off as Elliot Steedman finished after good skills by Thomas Hickman. With little time left Kings pressed hard but to no avail.

Making a splash for place in nationals

A GROUP of local swimmers are making waves after securing their places in a top national competition.

Megan Dudley, 15, Lucy Furnell, 14, Becky Bradley, 15, and Nat Dingley, 15, all members of Stourbridge Swimming Club, qualified in the intermediate medley and freestyle relay races while competing for Thorns School and Community College in the trials of the 2012/13 Secondary School Team Championships.

They will now compete in the national finals to be held at Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre, Coventry on November 24.

Other members of the swimming club were also successful in making the finals. Tom Asprey, 18, Becki Cole, 18, Ellie Lord, 17, Sam Tromans, 17, Lauren Sanders, 16, and Hannah Williams, who all attend King Edwards VI College in Stourbridge secured their places.

Stew Nicklin, Stourbridge Swimming Club's head coach, said: "This is a fantastic achievement for all 10 of our swimmers and shows the exceptional standard within the club for them to reach national finals."

By George! Taylor fires Dynamics

Dudley Sports Dynamos U14s 3 Old Wuls South U14s 1

GEORGE TAYLOR was the hero as Dudley Sports Dynamos Under-14s put the bite on Old Wuls South in their latest Stourbridge League outing.

Taylor found the net twice and Lopes Massampo once to secure a 3-1 victory in the top of the table clash.

Legion Lions U14s 1 Dudley Sports Juniors U14s 1

James Williams was on target to earn Sports a point from their trip to Lions.

Dudley Sports U13s 3 Kinver Colts U13s 4

Two goals from Conner Gordon couldn't save Dudley Sports slipping to a 4-3 reverse at home to Kinver Colts.

Peter Johnson also netted for Sports.

Football Futures Ladies 1 Dudley Sports Ladies 1

Chloe Gwilliams hit the back of the net to earn Sports a point

Catalano has her sights set on being No.1



Dudley's Maria Catalano is lining up a shot at glory in the UK Championships at Swindon this weekend

IT COULD be all change at the top when the women's snooker circuit descends on Swindon on Saturday.

Dudley's world No.2 Maria Catalano, who plays in the West Midlands Snooker League, has been installed as favourite to claim her first UK

Championship, the third leg of seven on the 2012-13 World Ladies Billiards & Snooker Association tour at Jesters Snooker Hall.

Catalano, still smarting from a 3-0 defeat by Hong Kong's Ng On Yee in the final of the Northern Champ-

ionship in September, could snatch the No.1 spot from another Dudley player, the absent Reanne Evans.

Evans is the reigning world Ladies champion, having won the title for the seventh successive year in April 2011.



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